Hafa Adai!

Public urged to join Liberation Day parade tomorrow. » PAGE 6

Talent competition kicks off tonight. » PAGE 7

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

A diver tries to find the exact location of the damage in IT&E's undersea fiber optic cable last Wednesday. IT&E stopped deploying divers as PTI chief executive officer James Oehlerking said they have already reached the limit of how deep the divers can go.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FRIDAY JULY 17, 2015
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Cable repair ship on its way

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

A ship that will repair IT&E's damaged undersea fiber optic cable is now on its way to Saipan.

According to PTI chief executive officer James Oehlerking, the ship was scheduled to leave Taiwan 10pm last night and will be arriving on the island next week.

"We've locked down the departure and arrival schedule with the repair ship," Oehlerking said, "We're expecting a transit time that will have it arrive Tuesday, the 22nd, approximately 4am in the morning."

Pieces of equipment that were identified and required for the repair will also be on the ship but some will also be loaded on Saipan, including the replacement piece for the fiber optic cable.

Oehlerking said the repair process will begin right away.

"We've got to load up some of the equipment that we have here that's required for the repair. The process will start immediately upon its arrival," Oehlerking said.

He added that they are looking at a

See CABLE on Page 4

NRDC: Navy mitigation plans inadequate

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

U.S. Navy mitigation plans are "inadequate" to prevent harm to marine mammals from high-energy sonar training pulsing throughout the Marianas Islands range—an area believed to hold naïve and relatively under-researched stocks of marine mammals, says the National Resources Defense Council.

NRDC Marine Mammals Protection Project director Michael Jasny told *Saipan Tribune* that a fundamental aspect of the marine environment is its "soundscape." Right now, the Navy has left no portion of the vast Marianas Islands Range Complex excluded from military training. For new training, as described in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing, or MITT, impact documents, the Navy plans the same.

In 2013, Gov. Eloy S. Inos requested more baseline studies, marine mammal protection areas, and that certain MITT activity not be done around certain islands. However, the Navy has since said they cannot impose geographic limitations on training, calling this an

See NRDC on Page 4

20 start fishing community on Pagan

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Twenty native residents of Pagan are currently on that island to establish a fishing community there, according to Northern Island Mayor Jerome K. Aldan.

» If weather permits, Aldan to travel north for damage assessment

Aldan

The envisioned fishing community will be involved in trolling for tuna, mahi-mahi, and marlin as well as bottom fishing and spear fishing.

The fish will be harvested and processed for consumption. It will undergo proper processing for preservation to maintain the quality so it could be exported to Saipan where it would be sold and distributed.

Aldan said he would like to develop a viable fishing community for the island's residents who will be able to harvest, process, package, and export fresh fish from its surrounding waters through both traditional and modern means.

"A sustainable fishing community will provide an economic lift that offers and initially sustain 10 to 15 residential jobs that includes fishermen, fish processors, boat operators, and other support staff," he said.

Aldan said that if weather permits it, he has already scheduled a charter

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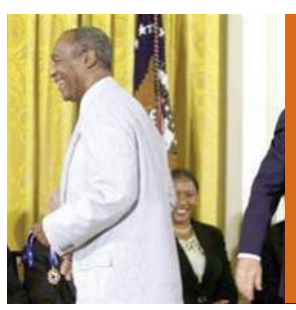

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Local

CHC board to meet with CUC soon on proposed payment agreement

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The board of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will meet with the board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. soon regarding a proposed payment agreement between the two agencies.

Esther Muña, CEO of CHCC, said a meeting is set "next Tuesday [July 21]."

"We'd like to sit down with them. Our chairman of the board is invited to be there also," Muña said.

In a letter, CHCC proposed a monthly payment of "at least" $150,000 after the CHCC pays CUC a $250,000 payment for the month of June.

CHCC said it would make the monthly payment thereafter "using current allotment and other revenue sources until CHCC completes installation of a renewable [energy] system."

"It is not a one-sided agreement, despite what [CUC] claim," Muña said, adding that "we basically made it clear that we cannot afford the rates."

She also mentioned that CUC continues to charge the CHCC government rates, which are the highest in the CNMI.

"The government cannot afford the rate, but you don't sue them," she said.

Muña faced lawmakers for a Senate budget hearing this week where she presented CHCC's proposed $10 million spending plan for the next fiscal year. She said her priorities will be employment retention and equipment upgrade, among others.

CUC last July 6 said its board of directors has set a period of

See CHC on Next Page

Hotel tax will be tapped for law enforcement manpower needs

The administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos is promising to provide 50 FTEs for law enforcement agencies.

According to Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), the government is "assuring" that there will be 50 FTEs available for law enforcement agencies, including the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Customs.

Sablan said another source of funding for law enforcement agencies is a portion of the CNMI's hotel occupancy tax.

He said a law was put in place during the 18th Legislature where the allocation has been determined.

"I cannot give the exact amount, but that fund might already be substantial and can help law enforcement departments to hire more personnel," Sablan said.

DPS has repeatedly called for more funding.

At a Senate budget hearing, DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said his department needs a $7.2-million budget and that he "cannot work with just $4.5 million" as proposed by the government.

DPS is earmarking a big chunk of the budget, about $5.1 million, for personnel, and $1.6 million for operations. Deleon Guerrero said he has also requested a budget for 20 more police officers.

He also cited the need for a certified counselor to provide psychological intervention, confidential counseling, dealing with traumatic incidents, and reintegrating officers after active military service,

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'Internet disruption makes legal research difficult'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lawyers, particularly immigration lawyers and law offices' staff, are greatly affected by IT&E's network outage.

A staff at a law firm specializing in immigration matters told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they usually give their clients updates about their cases by regularly checking their status online. With the Internet down, however, they could not provide these updates, said the staff who asked to be identified only as Sarah.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services also does not accept walk-in clients, Sarah said. New clients need to obtain an InfoPass by going online, she said.

"Since the Internet is down or slow, clients could not get their InfoPass," she said.

Sarah said the problem is compounded when an email has an attachment.

"It's takes forever to open the attachment," Sarah said, adding it's severely affecting their business.

For law offices' staff like her, Sarah said it's also very inconvenient. As they could not make online filing, law offices' staff have to go to the Superior Court and U.S. District Court for the NMI.

At the Superior Court, Sarah said, just making a payment requires falling in a long line.

Doing legal search is a big problem too, not only for law clerks but private lawyers also.

Saipan Tribune learned that some lawyers even go to Tinian, where the Internet has no problem, just to do legal research for their cases.

Although both federal and local courts have law libraries, law clerks need to do their research online.

As a result, lawyers have delayed the filing of documents or pleadings in court.

On Wednesday, Office of the Attorney General Solicitor Division chief James Zarones, joined by deputy attorney general Lillian Tenorio and assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan, requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to give the CNMI government more time to file an opposition to a motion for default in a lawsuit filed by Dr. Gary Ramsey.

Zarones, Tenorio, and Sablan said the recent disruption in the Internet service has made legal research "exceedingly difficult or impossible."

With down websites, courts' calendar of hearings was also not available.

CHC

From Page 2

30 days to review a draft payment proposal from CHCC.

CUC board chair Adelina Roberto said the board has started the review last June 30 and will come out with a decision on July 30.

She said after a decision has been made, the CUC board will inform CHCC and "discuss our own board's findings."

Roberto disclosed the CUC board's intent to conduct the 30-day review period during a meeting with lawmakers on Capital Hill.

She also stressed to lawmakers that the proposal from CHCC is a "draft proposal" and that the board will still need to discuss the proposal.

John Riegel, chief engineer and acting executive director of CUC, commenting on the proposal, said the CHCC board may "feel comfortable to pay the $150,000 now."

He said the proposed payment plan did not indicate how long CHCC plans to pay the $150,000 per month. He also confirmed that this is a "concern" because CHCC's power consumption in a month is about $500,000.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), head of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, earlier called for a meeting with CUC.

After hearing the updates from CUC, the lawmaker said he now wants both the CUC and CHCC boards to meet with legislators in about "two weeks."

Igisomar said he wants "to know more" about the situation between CHCC and CUC regarding the draft proposal.

"If the negotiations fail, and the CUC takes the CHCC to court, the government is again paying attorney's fees and other unnecessary costs," Igisomar said.

HOTEL

From Page 2

among others.

Customs director Joe Mafnas said his division is supporting legislation including House Bill 19-83, which mandates the fines and penalties to remain with Customs and not remitted to government.

The bill was introduced by Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

Mafnas said the division needs more personnel, as tourism continues to grow in the CNMI. He said the rising number of cases of illegal drugs coming in through the ports also warrants more manpower for Customs. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

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CABLE

From Page 1

two-day work timeline once the ship arrives.

"It'll depend on the initial investigation, identification of the break location, and the type of break but we're anticipating it should go fairly quickly, potentially a 48-hour repair timeline," Oehlerking said.

The ship is a specialized ship that uses jets instead of propellers to hold it in place for the repair process.

Oehlerking said it will be deploying a submersible to be able to determine the exact damage.

"My understanding [is] they'll send out a submersible to show, take video of the actual break location and if the cable is cut then they will pull it up," Oehlerking said

"If it's not cut, they'll actually cut the cable and pull up in two different sections," he added.

Divers prepare for their dive last Wednesday to find the damage in IT&E's fiber optic cable. They were unable to find its exact location.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Damage still not located

He said members of a logistics team are on island to do some tasks before the ship arrives such as inspecting and preparing the ends of the replacement fiber optic cable as well as refining the location of the actual break and assessing water currents.

As of Wednesday, divers were not able to locate the exact damaged part of the cable. Oehlerking said divers were not deployed yesterday anymore.

"We've reached the limit of how far the divers can go down. We've pretty much gotten much information out of that as we can," Oehlerking said.

"The damage itself is deeper than what the divers can reach from a surface dive," he added.

Oehlerking added that they evaluated the suggestion to just put up a new line instead of repairing the existing fiber optic cable.

"The timing for installation of a new cable is significantly longer than the restoration period. In an effort to put things back up as quickly as possible, we chose to do a straight repair as opposed to a replacement," he said.

'Not normal'

Oehlerking emphasized that the limited network connectivity that Saipan is relying on right now is still "not normal." It is one-tenth of what the actual capacity should be.

"Let me be very clear: This is not normal operation. It's not what we call good operation, it's basic levels of communication," Oehlerking said. "When we say things are back in service, it's not normal levels of service."

As a tip, he said that connecting one computer to the network will be more usable than running the bandwidth through a WiFi with multiple computers.

"They may be used to plug this into a WiFi network and support multiple computers. We're not in that situation right now," he said.

NRDC

From Page 1

"impractical burden" with regards to implementation.

Instead, the Navy plans lookout surveys and safety zones around training vessels and monitor these zones at a kilometer radius for marine animals. The Navy says that for sonar, ships will first power down when an animal is spotted within 1,000 yard, adding that additional power downs would occur at 500 yards, and shut down at 200 yards.

Jasny, though, says studies have been done to quantify the Navy's chances of spotting beaked whales underwater, for example. Calling beaked whales and other marine mammals "cryptic" species that put off little spray when surfacing water, Jasny said studies have concluded that even under good conditions, the Navy had 1-in-50 chance of spotting beaked whales right on the track line of their vessel.

"…A one-in-fifty-chance—2 percent," he said. "In a place like the offshore Marianas Islands, where sea states are typically very high, that number—2 percent—is Pollyanaish."

"Even if we were only concerned with impacts within one kilometer of these activities, the Navy's monitoring is still insufficient to actually significantly reduce impacts."

He said these high-powered sonar sources impact marine mammals and other marine mammals well beyond their kilometer safety zone. The ocean is an "acoustic world" for marine mammals that use sound to find food, mate, and maintain social bonds.

"The Navy's safety zones is inadequate to deal with the severe sorts of impacts that can occur within a kilometer of the high-powered sonar system. It also does nothing to deal with the great number of impacts occurring beyond the array. The Navy is undermining a fundamental aspect of the marine environment—it's soundscape."

"The Navy is adopting mitigation that's like a finger in the dike," he said.

Sonar is associated with distinct pathologies in stranded whales. Deep-diving whales that are stranded and associated with Navy exercises show symptoms of decompression sickness, or "the bends." The symptoms include bleeding around the meninges, brain lesions, and organ tissue damage to the acoustic fats, which are used to conduct sound to the ear.

NOAA Fisheries researchers reported evidence of humpback whale sightings in June from surveys off Saipan earlier this year. Researchers have said that the number mom-and-calf pairs were "suggestive of breeding grounds" in the Marianas.

Move to the Pacific

There are four primary areas the U.S. Navy is doing its testing and training. The Southeast Atlantic—from Virginia and Florida—the Southern California, the Hawaiian Islands, and the Marianas, with noticeably increase in tempo and training in the Marianas similar to scale of the Hawaii Islands, Jasny said. NRDC follows environmental impact statements across the Navy ranges.

He said the Marianas is distinguished from other areas because there has been a rapid increase of activity. "That's important because the populations of marine life around the Marianas are comparably naive. They have not been subjected to this onslaught of activity before. The nature of their response may differ."

"One of things I find…disturbing about all of this is that the Navy never bothered to establish a biological baseline. It started ramping up these activities without beforehand going out and doing vessel surveys to figure out the biological picture of what the Marianas was like. Instead it went full-steam ahead, shooting and asking questions later. We are trying to figure out exactly how the Navy's activities have altered life around the Marianas islands. It becomes extremely difficult to determine. That's a huge problem. It runs counter to the basic principles of environmental management," he said.

What are the size of marine population, where are their breeding areas, their feeding areas? What's their density? These are questions that need answer, according to Jasny.

The impractical burden

Jasny said the most effective means to protect habitats would be to determine important habitats off-limits to hazardous activity. He said even NOAA Fisheries has concluded that the most effective result would be to reduce harm from the Navy's activities by protecting biologically important areas.

"That's precisely what I think the NMI government has recommended, and what the Navy has off-handedly rejected," he said.

Inos has proposed mitigation zones that excluded sonar and explosives training and testing within certain distances from CNMI islands and West Mariana ridge.

The Navy, though, has called setting these zones "premature" for these reasons: "an increased safety risk to personnel, an unacceptable impact on the effectiveness of training and testing activities that would affect military readiness, and an impractical burden with regard to implementation."

But Jasny says this is "boilerplate language" that the Navy to uses in every range.

This language appears to have been "parroted" by NMFS, who approves marine mammal takes in other ranges.

In March, a Hawaii court ruled illegal the NMFS' approval of Navy sonar, deep-sea detonation, and other training in the Hawaii/Southern California range.

In this case, public comments asked for restrictions to important areas for blue and sei whales. But the Navy called this "impractical" and NMFS eventually approved this training,

But according to the court NMFS "only summarizes the Navy's indication of impracticality without analyzing it at all."

"NMFS cannot just parrot what the Navy says. If NMFS is accepting the Navy's position, NMFS must articulate a rational basis for that decision," the court said.

NMFS is responsible for the country's wildlife protection laws and laws protecting marine environment.

In the Marianas, Jasny said NMFS needs "to hold the Navy to account, and to look closely at what the Navy does in these areas of concern and what activities can be moved out in order to protect marine life in the Marianas."

That is the kind of "hard look" that a simple respect for the marine environment and adherence to the law would require, he said.

Authorization

In June, NMFS issued its biological opinion on Navy training, finding that the training will likely adversely affect these species—which include whales, dolphins, and sea turtles—but will not jeopardize their ability to survive or recover in the wild.

This review of the Marianas comes in the wake of the court decision in the Hawaii/ Southern California case.

With the recent opinion, a "letter of authorization," or LOA, from the Service is expected.

Current authorizations for Navy training in the Marianas expire in a few weeks, on Aug. 3.

PAGAN

From Page 1

to go up to the Northern Islands this week as part of disaster assessment.

Plans, development

Aldan said his office is also planning to construct enclosed fish drying and dehydrating cabinets, a fish cleaning and smoking building, and packaging and shipping structure on Pagan.

In addition to construction, procurement of processing equipment and supplies like knives, cutting boards, ice chests, salts and spices, vacuum pack, soap/sanitizing agents, stainless steel trays, water catchments, and other fish processing needs would be carried out.

Aldan said that harvested fish products will be processed and packaged in accordance with current health and food handling standards, including formal training in the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point, or HACCP, for all personnel directly involved in processing.

Aldan noted that the Saipan Fishermen's Market Association is working on reopening its marketing operation at a new location along Beach Road in Garapan and agreed to assist his office.

His office will provide a field supervisor to oversee daily operations and assign an experienced person based on Saipan as project manager. He said that fishermen will be selected and will be required to learn boat handling and seamanship, including certification on both CPR and first aid.

"Knowledgeable fishermen will be selected by Aldan who will be performing all fishing activities. Such fishermen shall be able to perform trolling, bottom fishing, and spear fishing methods. In addition all fishermen will be required to learn about boat handling and seamanship including certification on both CPR and first aid," Northern Islands Mayor's Office consultant William Torres said.

Assistance on establishment

Aside from the fishing market on Saipan already agreeing to assist the envisioned fishing community on Pagan, Aldan said he will contract a vessel to bring in the fish from the Northern Island to Saipan. He said he will also ask help from other vessels that actively fish in northern waters to transport the fish to Saipan.

He said this would reduce the costs of shipping by as much as 50 to 70 percent.

Aldan will also seek assistance from the Division of Fish and Wildlife for proper training in sampling of fish species entering Saipan, Northern Marianas College-CREES for training on value-added techniques and productions such as fish drying, smoking, jerking and packaging, and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council for an HACCP workshop on proper seafood handling and processing.

"The fishing community was available with the assistance of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources from its CNMI Marine Conservation Plan for disbursing $40,620," Aldan said.

"I would like to extend my appreciation to DLNR Secretary Richard Seman and special assistant Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo for their utmost assistance in moving the project forward to fruition," he added.

PSS backs proposed bill to recruit off-island teachers

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

The commissioner of the Public School System supports a proposed legislation to allow the PSS to tap off-island teachers to address the need of CNMI public schools.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan said that "PSS is always looking for highly qualified personnel."

"So when there's a shortfall, we have to go beyond our parameters, and it seems that in the CNMI we do not have the pool that we need," Sablan said.

She said that PSS "would like to have the ability to recruit from outside the U.S. territory or the U.S. mainland for that matter."

"If there are qualified [teachers], we would like to invite them to work with the PSS," Sablan added.

A proposed legislation at the Senate authored by Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) calls for PSS to tap manpower outside the U.S. to address the need for qualified teachers for the CNMI.

Quitugua is also the chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth Affairs.

The concern over the lack of qualified teachers was raised during the Senate budget hearing for PSS.

Sablan was with other PSS officials to face members of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs for a budget hearing.

She noted that PSS definitely needs more than $36.4 million, or 25 percent of the government's proposed budget. PSS is proposing a budget of $42 million.

Sablan said the bulk of the budget increase will be used for personnel.

She noted that several public high schools have been using substitute teachers for some time now. In its request, PSS identified the need for 16 new teachers.

Office of Management and Budget chief Vicky Villagomez earlier said the CNMI is set to receive "Compact impact" funds of about $2.3 million from the Office of Insular Affairs, although details of the budget allocation are still not very clear.

It is not known whether the funds will go directly to PSS, although these funds are for the public school systems of all the territories.

"A big chunk of the fund will be given to the PSS probably by the end of the school year," Villagomez said at the hearing. She did not give other details, aside from a tentative date of Oct. 15 for the fund's release.

These Compact impact funds—which are federal payments to offset the costs shouldered by territories in hosting migrant workers from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and Marshall Islands—are not factored in the PSS budget request.

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Briefing schedule in Laos govt civil action vs Bridge Capital suspended

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has suspended the briefing schedule for Lao People's Democratic Republic's application for issuance of subpoena against Bridge Capital LLC.

Manglona ordered that the hearing set for Aug. 20, 2015, shall proceed as a status conference.

Manglona

Manglona issued the order based upon the agreement by the counsels for the Laos government and Bridge Capital LLC.

Bridge Capital LLC counsel Michael Dotts and Laos government counsel William M. Fitzgerald recently filed a stipulation extending time to respond to Lao PDR's application for issuance of subpoena.

The lawyers said Dotts' schedule and the press of other business make it difficult to respond to the application.

The lawyers agreed, among other things, that the hearing on the application issue, currently scheduled for Aug. 13, 2015, shall be reset to Aug. 20, 2015, at 10:30am.

In the application, Fitzgerald disclosed that John K. Baldwin of Bridge Capital is under criminal and tax investigations in Lao PDR for allegedly bribing Lao PDR officials over $300,000 that caused termination of an audit and also cost the Lao government $70 million in lost tax revenue over a five-year period from the operations of Baldwin group's casino.

Fitzgerald asked the federal court to allow Lao PDR to serve a subpoena pursuant to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and U.S. statute on Bridge Capital located on Saipan, and on Bridge Capital chief financial officer David Jensen, in connection with the criminal and tax investigations in Laos and in connection with two international arbitration proceedings pending in Singapore.

The lawyer revealed that both the Lao proceedings and the arbitration proceedings directly involve entities owned and/or controlled by Baldwin and Shawn Scott, who own Bridge Capital LLC.

Fitzgerald asked the court to issue the subpoenas in order for Lao PDR locate the evidence needed to establish criminal activity in Lao PDR and to support its claims and defenses before the international arbitral tribunal. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NOTICE OF SALE
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The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) hereby announces the sale of its commercial real estate located in Oleai, Saipan to the highest bidder at the starting minimum bid of $2M.

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A. No Representation or Warranties. Property and its improvements are being sold "AS IS, WHERE IS, WITH ALL FAULTS". Prospective Purchaser must rely on its own investigation and review of the physical, environmental, economic use, compliance, and legal conditions of the Property.

B. Proposals should include the following:
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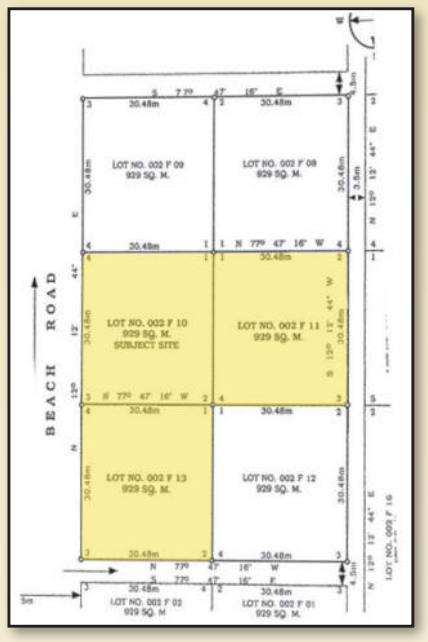
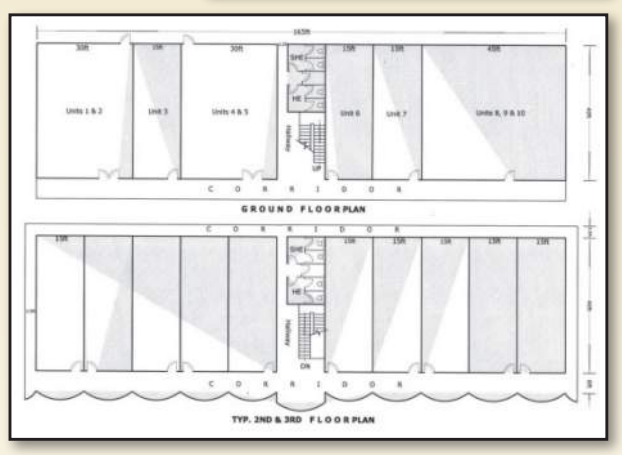


C. Submission: All Prospective Purchasers are encouraged to visit the property prior to submitting a proposal. The Property is available for a walk-through inspection by appointment only. Contact Christy Kintol, Office manager at ext. 310 or Oscar Camacho, Loan Manager at ext. 306 to schedule an appointment.

Proposals entitled **"OFFER TO PURCHASE - CDA BUILDING"** must be received by the CDA no later than 4:00 pm, **Friday, July 31, 2015** and should be addressed to:

Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950



The CDA reserves the right: **(1)** to cancel this Notice at any time for any reason **(2)** to accept or reject any and all proposals and **(3)** to request additional information prior to or upon the final selection of a purchaser.

Public urged to join Liberation Day parade tomorrow

The 2015 Liberation Day stage, with its brightly colored logo and banner, stands at the center overlooking the whole carnival grounds. The Liberation Day parade kicks off tomorrow, July 18, while the talent competition kicks off tonight, July 17. JAYSON CAMACHO

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The long overdue and highly anticipated Liberation Day parade is all set for tomorrow, Saturday, according to Mayor David M. Apatang.

The parade route is from Quartermaster Road to Garapan Fishing Base. However, the floats will continue to the American Memorial Park to avoid congesting the carnival grounds.

The parade route will be closed at 7:30am and the parade itself will begin at 9am.

"I encourage everyone to attend the parade this coming Saturday, July 18. Despite the delays, we [want] the community to enjoy and watch this year's 2015 Liberation Day parade," Apatang said.

Tropical storm Chan-Hom and Typhoon Nangka forced the postponement of the Liberation Day parade the past two weeks.

The Saipan Mayor's Office, along with Skywalker Communications Group and the 2015 Liberation Day Committee, met yesterday morning and gave the go-signal for the parade.

Henry Hofschneider, Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant, said more than 10 floats and more than 10 groups of marchers are confirmed for this year's parade.

Saipan Tribune learned through sources that visiting performers and marchers from Korea and Japan came but, due to the cancellations in the past two weeks, they were not able to stay and have already returned to their home countries.

"Several associations did pull out from Korea and Japan due to the postponement," Hofschneider said.

He also said that no decision has been made whether vendors will be reimbursed a portion of their rental fees for concession booths that weren't used from July 2 to July 13 due to the stormy weather.

Hofschneider pointed out, though, that the $200 security deposit will be returned to vendors at the end of the Liberation Day festivities if no damage is found in the booths.

As for the amusement rides, there hasn't been any update as to when they will become available for the carnival grounds, according to Hofschneider.

Skywalker business director Elvis Yu earlier said the rides would become available as soon as CNMI Customs Division clears it at the Port of Saipan in Puerto Rico.

Non-profit organizations join

Earlier last month, Skywalker announced the availability of some booths that are being made available for free by the Liberation festivities' biggest sponsor, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. These BSI booths are now being used by the Commonwealth Cancer Association and Talabwogh Stars, among others.

CCA will provide pamphlets on cancer while Talabwogh Stars will be spreading more awareness on the prevention and use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.

Skywalker public relations manager Kiki Chen urges everyone to support the two NGOs by visiting their booths.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST

REQUEST FOR QUALIFIED PROPOSALS

EIGHT HOUSES ON SAIPAN AND TWO HOUSES IN SINAPALO, ROTA

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) announces this request for qualified proposals for the following:

1. Two-story 5 Bedroom Concrete House located in Kannat Tabla, Saipan – 1 unit
2. Two-story 4 Bedroom Concrete House located in Kagman, Saipan – 1 unit
3. 3 Bedroom Concrete Houses located in Kagman, Saipan – 2 units
4. 2 Bedroom Concrete Houses located in Kagman Saipan – 4 units
5. Two-story 4 Bedroom Concrete House located in Sinapalo, Rota – 1 unit
6. 2 Bedroom Concrete House located in Sinapalo, Rota – 1 unit

MPLT Resolution 10-10-A2 establishes the Supplemental Home Investment Program (SHIP), under the program, MPLT offers these acquired homes in its inventory to qualified persons. The three significant qualification requirements include the following: 1) the homes are offered at the minimum appraised value; 2) each proposer is credit-worthy for debt-service for the amount of the appraised value of the home; and 3) the proposer is certified as qualified under the CNMI Homestead Program with the CNMMI Department of Public Lands, Homestead Division.

The interest rate is 2% per annum fixed under the program.

Notice is given to all proposers that there are no warranties of any kind as to any of the homes under the SHIP program. Homes are presented for proposals "as is and where is" without warranties as to habitability, suitability or fitness for purpose. It is the responsibility of each interested proposer to inspect or commission an inspection of the property.

In this announcement MPLT solicits qualified proposals for the acquired houses listed above. They are not subject to the right of redemption. Below is a photograph and short description of each home as well as the minimum appraised value. Interested proposers may pick up the application packets at the MPLT Office at House NO. 1222, Capital Hill; or with the MPLT Loan Administrator (Bank of Saipan) in Chalan Kanoa or at www.mplt.gov.mp

The deadline for submission of proposals for any of the houses is **Friday, August 28, 2015 at 4:00PM**.

MPLT hereby reserves the right to cancel, modify or reject this RFP and any proposals should the Trustees determine that doing so is in the best interest of the Trust.

MPLT SHIP 003

2-story/5-Bedroom/3-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kannat Tabla
Appraised Value: $156,000.00

MPLT SHIP 008

3-Bedroom / 2-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Fair Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $44,000.00

MPLT SHIP 009

3-Bedroom / 2-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $66,000.00

MPLT SHIP 010

2-Bedroom / 1-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $39,000.00

MPLT SHIP 011

2-Bedroom / 1-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $44,000.00

MPLT SHIP 012

2-Bedroom / 1-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $31,000.00

MPLT SHIP 013

2-story / 4-Bedroom / 2-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Fair Condition
Kagman II
Appraised Value: $73,000.00

MPLT SHIP 014

2-Bedroom / 1-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $38,000.00

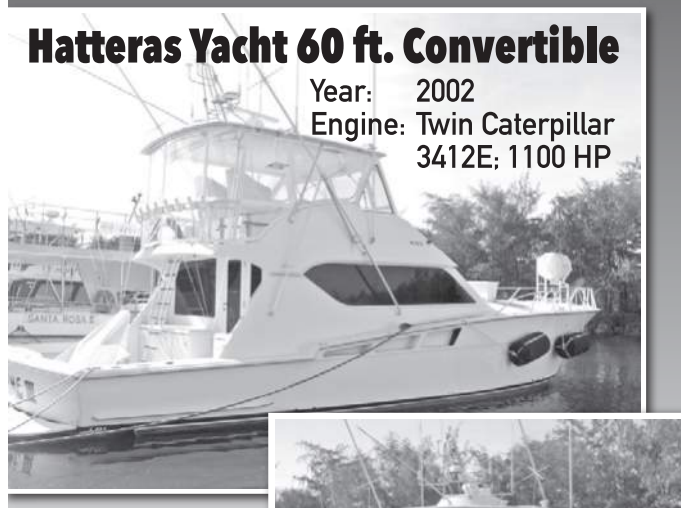
MPLT SHIP 015

2-story / 4-Bedroom / 3-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Sinapalo, Rota Subdivision
Appraised Value: $50,000.00

MPLT SHIP 016

2-Bedroom / 1-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Sinapalo, Rota
Appraised Value: $35,000.00

BOAT FOR SALE
"PASTIME III"



Please call
233-0197
or
287-0195

Talent contest kicks off tonight

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 14 performers will be showing off their talents tonight at the start of the 2015 Liberation Festivities talent competition beginning at 6pm at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Gordon Marciano, 2015 Liberation Day entertainment committee chair, said a total of three categories and contestants for each category will vie for the $500 first place purse.

Categories include the 1 to 10 years old age group, the 11 to 20 years old group, and the 21 years old and above category. A consolation prize of $100 will go to the non-winners.

"So everybody's a winner," Marciano said.

This is only for the first week of the talent competition. Next Friday, July 24, it will be the hip-hop dance and rappers competition. On July 31 it will be the ballet, ballroom, Marianas contemporary art performance, and Polynesian intermediate talent competition. All these lead to the last Friday of the competition, which is the Battle of the Bands.

A total of $10,000 in prizes has been set aside for the talent competitions.

"The first string of competition is the solo competition and will feature performers of solo singers and instrumentalists," Marciano said.

"There will be five judges for the solo competition and that is the first competition. Next Friday is hip-hop dance and rappers competition. However, winners won't be announced," Marciano said, because Friday is a full set and is in line with the end time of 11pm.

"We don't want to hold back the kids and we can actually announce it on the following Friday," Marciano said.

"Other reason is that it will take longer due to technical matters such as sound check and we want to treat it at a professional level and make sure that they are treated at a professional level," he said.

No House decision yet on FY 2016 budget

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives was not able to decide on a draft budget act and will continue discussions in another session set for today.

Lawmakers were supposed to adopt the proposed budget act, but decided to go into recess after almost four hours of deliberations on Wednesday afternoon.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) called for the recess, reminding lawmakers that deliberations might take until "midnight" and that the legislative staff will also have to stay late.

Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) suggested that deliberations be continued, but a majority of his colleagues voted against it.

At the session, Sablan introduced House Bill 19-86 or the "Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2016," which the House Committee on Ways and Means adopted on July 2.

The spending plan details a $149.5-million budget for fiscal year 2016, which is slightly higher than the government's earlier proposal of $145.8 million.

One of the concerns raised were salary increases, particularly for the Executive Branch.

"Why did other agencies have increases?" Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) asked, noting that certain agencies do not have increases reflected on the balance sheets.

Sablan said his committee had the option "to help" other agencies, and that at least lawmakers can help "some of them," if not all.

"We have to understand that an across-the-board increase of government employees' salaries will cost us an additional $4 million," Sablan said.

Yumul, however, said it would have been fairer if no increases were given at all.

More questions are expected to be raised today as the budget session continues.

Did you know that we've already lost 40-50% of CNMI turtle nests this year to tropical storm beach erosion?
Nest inundation or loss from high tidal surges and waves can cause nest failure. If you witness turtle eggs washing out or exposed, please alert hotline staff of the time and location.
To report sick, injured, or dead turtles please call our stranding hotline at 287-8537 (CTR-TLES) or DFW Enforcement at 989-6092.
CNMI turtles are a shared community resource connecting our people's past with our people's future. Help us to conserve sea turtles so future generations may be able to enjoy them also.
CNMI SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM
DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE CNMI

PERSONAL LOAN: The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 3.99% will apply to new, approved personal loan applications received from 7/1/15 to 8/31/15 with a principal amount of $10,050.00 and a term of 12 months. Loans with other principal amounts ($2,500 minimum loan amount) and terms are available, but the promotional APR may differ. A one-time documentation preparation fee of $50.00 applies to all loans under this promotion and will be added to the principal balance. For a 12-month loan of $10,050.00 at 3.99% APR, you will have 12 monthly payments of $851.46, which includes principal and interest. Offer subject to credit approval. This offer does not apply to business or real estate loans. Also, the proceeds of the loan cannot be used to pay off any existing First Hawaiian Bank credit cards, personal loans or lines-of-credit.

UNITED MILEAGEPLUS PERSONAL CREDIT CARD: Miles accrued, awards, and benefits issued are subject to change and are subject to the rules of the United MileagePlus program, including without limitation the Premier® program (the "MileagePlus Program"), which are expressly incorporated herein. Please allow 6-8 weeks after completed qualifying activity for miles to post to your account. United may change the MileagePlus Program including, but not limited to, rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus Program at any time and without notice. United and its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products or services of other participating companies and partners. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the member. Bonus award miles, award miles and any other miles earned through non-flight activity do not count toward qualification for Premier status unless expressly stated otherwise. The accumulation of mileage or Premier status or any other status does not entitle members to any vested rights with respect to the MileagePlus Program. MileagePlus Program participation may not be permitted in some countries. All calculations made in connection with the MileagePlus Program, including without limitation with respect to the accumulation of mileage and the satisfaction of the qualification requirements for Premier status, will be made by United Airlines and MileagePlus in their discretion and such calculations will be considered final. Information in this communication that relates to the MileagePlus Program does not purport to be complete or comprehensive and may not include all of the information that a member may believe is important, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to all of the information on the united.com website and the MileagePlus Program rules. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks. For complete details about the MileagePlus Program, go to www.united.com.

Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United MileagePlus® credit card by 8/31/15 and, if you're approved, receive 5,000 bonus miles at account opening and 20,000 bonus miles if you spend $1,500 in purchases within the first 3 months after your account is opened. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply. See the United MileagePlus® Credit Card Agreement for more information.

SECURE CHECKING: The monthly service charge for Secure Checking is $6 per month and the minimum deposit to open a Secure Checking account and receive the $7 Smiles card is $100 (or just $5 with direct deposit). You will receive the $7 Smiles card as a gift when you mention this offer at any First Hawaiian Bank branch and open a new (not converted) Secure Checking account. Offer not valid for business or corporate accounts. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Limit of one gift card per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires 8/31/15, or when supplies are exhausted.

TOTE BAG: Receive a custom tote bag when you apply for a personal loan with First Hawaiian Bank, a United MileagePlus Personal Credit Card, or open a personal Secure Checking account with debit card. Limit one (1) bag per customer per eligible offer. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires 8/31/15 or when supplies are exhausted.

Man allegedly beats up drinking buddy with baton

Police arrested on Wednesday night an ex-convict who allegedly beat up with a baton a man he was drinking with at an apartment in Afetnas.

Donny Swei, 42, was arrested after the victim managed to get hold of a surveillance camera's footage of the attack.

The victim, Scott Patrick Owen, suffered a laceration on the head and face and had to be transported to the Commonwealth Health Center for stitches, police said.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed yesterday a $10,000 cash bail on Swei and set the preliminary hearing for July 21 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that two police officers responded on July 8 at 7:52pm to a report of an injured person at Owen's apartment along Afetnas Road.

Pangelinan said that medics informed the officers that Owen was attacked by a Palauan man and needed to be taken to the hospital for injuries.

The officers observed bloodstains on Owen's chest, stomach, and back. Bloodstains were also found inside the living room, the front of the bedroom, and in the kitchen.

Owen told the officers that he had been drinking with the Palauan man earlier and after he told him several times to leave because he needed to rest, the suspect attacked him.

Owen added that he doesn't know the suspect's name.

Pangelinan said Owen called her the following day and provided her with a flash drive containing the footage of the attack.

Pangelinan saw that Owen was beaten up badly as he had a four-inch laceration on the back of the head, a cut on the left cheek, bruises under the eyes, a minor cut on his nose, and a two-inch cut on his left eye.

Last July 10, Pangelinan reviewed the footage that was taken from Advantage Store facing the patio of Owen's house and identified the suspect as Swei from a previous case.

Pangelinan said the footage showed that Swei walked out of the patio, then later ran back and threw Owen down to the floor.

Swei then repeatedly punched Owen, who was on the floor, and repeatedly hit him with an extendable baton.

Pangelinan said Swei was taken for an interview to the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation, where Owen identified him as the person who beat him up.

Swei claimed that it was Owen who attacked him and that's why he had scratches on the left upper eyebrow.

The detective said Swei admitted that he slapped and punched Owen in the face.

Swei also identified the person in the footage as himself, police said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

IN CASE OF EX-CONVICT WHO SET MAN ON FIRE

Judge: $33K restitution should go to victim, not CHC

The Superior Court has denied the government's request to have the medical bill for a man who was set on fire paid directly to the Commonwealth Health Center.

In denying the government's motion to modify its restitution order, Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said the court refuses to insert or substitute an additional victim into the parties' plea agreement when CHC was not the intended recipient of the restitution.

In considering the court's lack of authority to later modify a sentencing order that was based on a plea agreement, Govendo said that, in the future, if the government has a substitute victim in mind, it should include such condition in the plea deal.

In May 2013, Alfonso Ramon, an ex-convict, set Zaji Zajradhara on fire using gasoline in a bottle outside a store in Garapan.

Ramon later pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault and battery as part of a plea deal. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

After a restitution hearing, Govendo directed Ramon to pay Zajradhara $33,986.38 for medical expenses he incurred while receiving treatment at CHC.

The government later asked for a court order to have Zajradhara's medical bill be paid directly to CHC instead of to the victim.

Ramon, through Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, opposed, arguing that CHC was not the direct victim of Ramon's crimes.

In denying the motion, Govendo said the court may have the authority to modify part of Ramon's sentence but it is restrained from modifying its restitution order when a plea agreement between the government and defendant has already been accepted.

In this case, Govendo said, the government offered to dismiss all other counts in the case if Ramon agreed to plead guilty to two of his criminal charges.

Govendo said Ramon also agreed to pay restitution to Zajradhara pursuant to the plea deal with the government.

"Once this court accepted the plea agreement between the Commonwealth and defendant, a valid contract was formed, severely limiting the court's discretion to subsequently alter the negotiated condition of his sentence," he said.

Govendo said although the court is sympathetic to have victims compensated for injuries caused by criminals, important policy considerations prevent the court from being amenable to the Commonwealth's motion to have CHC compensated instead of Zajradhara.

Ramon splashed gasoline on Zajradhara on Aug. 18, 2012, and set him on fire. Zajradhara suffered first degree burns in his face, neck, chest, back, arms, legs, and ankles.

Police said that prior to the incident, Ramon confronted the victim and accused him of working for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and was responsible for having him arrested before for selling marijuana.

During their argument, Ramon threatened to get gasoline and pour it on the victim's body and burn him. The defendant left but later returned with a tea bottle and a rolled napkin that was burning.

Ramon splashed the gasoline from the bottle on the victim's feet, igniting fire at his feet. The defendant then splashed more gasoline on the victim's face, but the latter blocked it with his saddlebag.

As a result, the victim's right shoulder and arm started to burn. The victim threw himself on the ground and managed to extinguish the blaze. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. 664-8300 • Fax No. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

July 17, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Imperial International (CNMI), LLC	05/11/2015 SMS-2015-X-029	Grand Mariana Casino and Hotel	Garapan	Major Siting	Approved (07/13/2015)
2. DLNR	06/05/2015 SSm-2015-X-045	Rehabilitation of Beach Pavilions and Staging Area	Coral Ocean Site	Shoreline APC	Approved (6/23/2015)*
3. Kuentai - USA	06/23/2015 SSm-2015-X-055	Excavate and Recovery	Achugao	Shoreline APC	Under Review
4. Kuentai - NPO	06/28/2015 SSm-2015-X-056	Excavate and Recovery	Tanapag	Shoreline APC	Under Review
5. D.K.K. Inc.	07/02/2015 SPlm-2015-X-057	Land Clearing	Lower Base	Shoreline APC	Approved (07/08/2015)*
6. Wang's Corporation DBA GT Snorkeling	07/07/2015 SLRm-2015-X-058	Snorkeling Operation	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review
7. Department of Public Lands	07/07/2015 TMS-2015-X-059	Tinian Kanddan Magpo Homestead	Tinian	Major Siting	Under Review
8. Black Micro Corp	07/06/2015 SPlm-2015-X-044(A)	Temporary Field Office and Station	Puerto Rico	Amendment	Approved (07/06/2015)*
9. Saipan Int'l Real Estate	02/24/2015 SMS-2015-X-010	Ocean Vista Resort	Capital Hill	Major Siting	Approved (06/25/2015)*
10. Villora Condotel Residence	02/06/2015 SMS-2015-X-007	Villora Condotel Residence	Achugao	Major Siting	Approved (07/15/2015)*

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days of minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearing are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice to WIC participants

This is to advise all WIC participants who were scheduled for an appointment on July 9, 10, 11, and 13, 2015, for a mid-certification and/or nutrition discussion that they can contact the WIC office at 664-4084 regarding their food benefits. For those that were scheduled for a certification appointment, you can come in on Tuesdays or Wednesday, as they are our walk-in days. As we are still unable to access our system, we continue to provide services but we are unable to print food benefits. ***(WIC)***

Marriage Encounter to host Talaricos' visit

CNMI Marriage Encounter is hosting Section 12 Ecclesial Couple Joe and Sue Talarico's visit to Saipan on July 21-24, 2015. We are inviting all Encountered couples, priests, and religious to join our two evening events:

■ M.E. Community Mass on Wednesday, July 22, 6pm at Santa Soledad Parish and CNMI Area Leadership Selection Process right after Mass.

■ Section 12 Community Enrichment on Thursday, July 23, 6:30pm at Joeten DaiDai Social Hall. Joe and Sue Talarico will be facilitating this enrichment.

Please bring a dish to share for each event. Call CNMI Ecclesial Team Cathy Cepeda at 483-7000 or Pali Ike Ayuyu at 483-4543 if you have any questions. ***(PR)***

Statewide Independent Living Council meeting rescheduled

The Statewide Independent Living Council's Third General Membership Meeting scheduled for July 9, from 1pm to 3pm, at the Rota Bay View Hotel has been rescheduled for July 23, 2015, same time and place. Agenda remains unchanged. For more information, contact the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, P.O. Box 501521, Saipan, MP 96950; Navy Hill, Buildings N2 & N4; voice: 322-6537/8; TTY: 322-6449; fax: 322-6536; email: nmidir@ovrgov.net; website: www.ovrgov.net. ***(SILC)***

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Marines and U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, July 17, from 10:30am to 8:30pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(JRM)***

2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures set

The 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures will be held Aug. 22 and 29 and Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26 at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan and will celebrate the cultural diversity of the Northern Mariana Islands, with special emphasis on the indigenous cultures of Micronesia. Cultural groups are encouraged to contact Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or 664-3210 to participate. ***(PR)***

Agricultural emergency loans now available

Commercial agricultural producers in Guam who were negatively impacted by Typhoon Dolphin may be eligible for Emergency Loans through the United State Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. Eligible producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses to a maximum amount of $500,000 at a low interest rate. Farm Service Agency will consider each loan application on its own merits. Deadline to apply is Feb. 5, 2016. For more information about Emergency Loans, contact the FSA Guam County Office at 472-7568 for an appointment or visit the FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/hi. ***(USDA)***

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* **Nissan Rogue Select** retail price $20,905.20 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $348.42 or $160.80 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,855.60.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

With El Chapo's brazen prison escape, Mexico's reputation is on the line

Barely a day after Mexican Foreign Secretary Jose Antonio Meade concluded a Dallas visit touting his nation's progress on trade and security, billionaire drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman escaped from his maximum-security prison cell. In a flash, Mexico's public relations efforts to dispel the negative stories and exaggerations about lax security in their country vaporized into the wind.

Guzman's escape belies the rosier picture of stability that Mexico's leaders present, while bolstering the worst stereotypes of incompetence and corruption. Mexico cannot afford mistakes when its reputation rests on the competent handling of kingpins like Guzman, especially given how quick Mexico is to cite its sovereignty whenever U.S. law enforcement agencies offer assistance.

Even from prison, Guzman reportedly continued to play a leading role in operations of his Sinaloa drug cartel, whose trafficking network for cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana exploited the Texas border area to supply a vast U.S. drug market including Dallas and beyond.

Guzman, 58, had already escaped once from prison, in 2001, and spent 13 years on the run before his recapture last year. U.S. officials sought his extradition, but Mexican authorities insisted that they could handle his imprisonment this time.

Mexico's judiciary and law-enforcement communities are infamous for corruption, and there's little doubt among U.S. law enforcers that personnel inside the maximum-security Almoloya federal prison assisted in this escape. The levels of engineering precision necessary to dig a mile-long tunnel network—connecting a remote house to a vertical shaft right beneath Guzman's private cell—would have been unlikely without inside assistance and detailed diagrams of the prison layout.

And why was Guzman allowed a private cell, with a shower conveniently hidden from video monitoring cameras? Such lapses undermine Mexico's law-enforcement credibility. You simply don't treat one of the nation's most dangerous and highly valued prisoners with such laxity.

Mexican officials, including President Enrique Pena Nieto, currently traveling in France, and for whom Guzman's capture in February was a crowning achievement, must be spitting angry. Not only do such incidents undermine Mexico's international credibility, they provide easy ammunition to critics such as GOP presidential contender Donald Trump, who cites Mexico's insecurity as reason to build border walls, deploy troops and impugn the character of the Mexican people.

U.S. assistance can help plug some very obvious holes—and tunnels—in Mexico's corruption-plagued law-enforcement, judicial and penal system. Mexico's authorities should swallow their pride and place questions of sovereignty secondary to the top priority of security.

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Random thoughts: cassettes and calculus

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.

I'm in a diner along a dusty desert highway. I'll order another cup of coffee and share some random thoughts:

1) The Saipan network

Although Saipan's business heyday is long past, there were so many friendships and associations made in the good days that the Saipan network was still alive and well. I'm not talking about the network of the political operatives, although that sure does exist. By contrast, I'm talking about the association of professionals such as business owners, engineers, doctors, pilots, and such.

Many, probably most, of these pros long ago left the island, but, paradoxically, this strengthened the Saipan network because it pushed its elements to take root in other places. Some of my old pals are now working in the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, mainland China, South Korea, New Zealand, Japan, the Caribbean, and just about anywhere in the mainland you care to name.

I recently crossed paths with a couple of helicopters I had flown on Saipan almost 25 years ago. They're in the U.S heartland, and we converged during a work assignment. The copters, and their exotic, Micronesian origins, drew in a few aviation enthusiasts for a bit of a powwow and flight-story swapping.

I was surprised at how many people had been to Saipan, including pilots, mechanics, ex-military members, and a business owner or two.

One of these guys wound up exporting finished goods to Japan based on his association with a mechanic who had gone from Saipan to Japan to inspect an aircraft. The mechanic was impressed with Japan, and saw that there was a lot of opportunity there. One thing leads to another, as they say.

That's what makes networks so powerful in the long run, and what made, and makes, Saipan so special to so many people.

2) Cassettes

You can file this under old fuddy-duddy: I bought some cassettes today.

Yeah, yeah, I know how great CDs and MP3s are. But I've always had a weak spot for cassettes. For me, in terms of utility, the leap from pre-cassette days to cassettes was a lot bigger than the leap from cassettes to CDs.

One reason for my allegiance is the good engineering on some of the old "AM/FM/Cassette" car stereos. Ford, in particular, had designs that you could operate by touch, without taking your eyes off the road. One of my casual ambitions is to convert an old car radio into tabletop device.

As for now, my old car radios are still in my cars. Most of my cars are so old they don't even have CD players.

The new wave group Bow Wow Wow sang a paean to cassettes in a 1980 song called "C30 C60 C90 Go!"

CD's came along shortly after that song did; the first audio CD hit the market in 1982.

The biggest change in all this stuff isn't technical. It's social. Electronic devices used to be merely peripheral parts of daily life but, now, for many people, they are the center of life.

3) The HSK

I've been asked if there's a standard test of Chinese-language proficiency for foreigners. I'm sure there are all sorts of those tests, but the best known is called the "HSK" exam, which comes from the Mandarin words for "Chinese Level Test" (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi).

The HSK comes in six levels: I through VI. The higher the level, the more advanced the test. Most people I've talked to about it regard Level IV as a good marker of having basic, street-level ability for most common situations, but I'm just passing on their informal consensus. I don't have any opinion on the matter.

I haven't sat for the HSK yet, but I'll get around to it eventually.

4) Leibniz

I just found an old pocket calendar in which I had scribbled the following quote from a book by Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1649-1716), the mathematician who, along with Isaac Newton, is credited for inventing calculus. Well, I didn't mean "along" as in "collaboration." I meant as in "also."

Anyway, here's the riff from the book Knowledge and Metaphysics: "There is always hiding in things a principle of determination which is based on consideration of maximum and minimum, such that the greatest effect is obtained with the least, so to speak, expenditure."

In other words, nature doesn't waste effort.

There's a lot to that, I think, but for now I figured I'd just share the quote before I lose that calendar again. Nature might not waste effort, but I sure do.

Well, I've finished my coffee. The open road beckons, so I'm going to pop a cassette into the Ford's player and hit the highway.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dial down the hysteria

There is no doubt that the absence of instant communication links has complicated our routine but the telecommunications firm are working overtime to design a solution to this problem.

Government officials should be urging calm instead of threatening lawsuits. Declaring a a state of emergency is too much.

The government should be working with these companies to solve the immediate problems, oversight should come later.

There is a telecommunications commission on the books with regulatory authority. That would be a good place to start.

In the meantime, let's dial down the hysteria and help fix this problem.

Juan S. Tenorio (Santiago)
Airport Road, Dandan

IT&E

Life in Motion

Dear People of the CNMI,

We would like to take this opportunity to apologize for the inconvenience and disruption to your lives that the cut in the Undersea Cable has caused all of you. IT&E has been and will continue to be committed to meet the communications requirements of the CNMI. Our people, since 2am of July 8, 2015 when this incident happened, have rallied themselves into working tirelessly without sleep, disrupting their own lives and family responsibilities, in order to restore as many services as possible to the community.

We have been committed to sharing information with the public as soon as it is available. Our restoration activities have continued at such a hectic pace with work happening simultaneously in Saipan, Tinian, Rota as well as Guam. In some cases, this resulted in confusion over the exact status or the quality of the service that we have restored. We apologize for that as well.

As we continue to work around the clock to restore all the services, we encourage the community to be patient and provide support and prayers to the IT&E staff. We also ask for your patience since some intermittent interruption of services may occur, but this will result in improved performance.

Since this has happened, IT&E has provided free SIM cards to our 4G customers and free local voice and text services to our pre-paid customers on Saipan. We have also committed not to charge our customers for services that they were not able to utilize.

As a community, we know that the CNMI is resilient having been through many typhoons and other calamities in the past which have affected our daily lives. We have always been a part of these situations and know that the CNMI will rise stronger as a community after these. IT&E as a company and our entire team are committed to do whatever is within our means to lessen the impact of this Undersea Cable cut, and to complete the restoration as quickly as possible. We would like to thank our loyal customers who have been with us over the past 35 years that we've been operating here. We are partners in the CNMI's development and continue to be committed to meeting the CNMI's communications needs today and in the future.

God bless the CNMI.

Jim Oehlerking
Chief Executive Office
Pacific Telecom Inc.
1-671-998-2952

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English-anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 12, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Atkins Kroll (Saipan) representatives pose with the organizers of the 2015 Tournament of Champions in front of a 2015 Toyota Prius that is featured as a hole-in-one prize in the upcoming tournament on Aug. 1 and 2, 2015.

Atkins Kroll offers 2015 Toyota Prius as TOC hole-in-one prize

Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Toyota has just announced that it will be offering up a brand new 2015 Toyota Prius that will be featured as a hole-in-one prize in the upcoming Tournament of Champions.

"Throughout its 20 year history, the Tournament of Champions has enabled the success of many beautification projects and destination enhancement activities throughout the island," said Doug Brennan, general manager of Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Toyota. "We are excited to be a part of this year's tournament and wish all the players luck!"

"We are grateful for the company's contribution and its long-standing commitment to TOC," said Ben Babauta, tournament director.

The 20th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 1 and 2. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

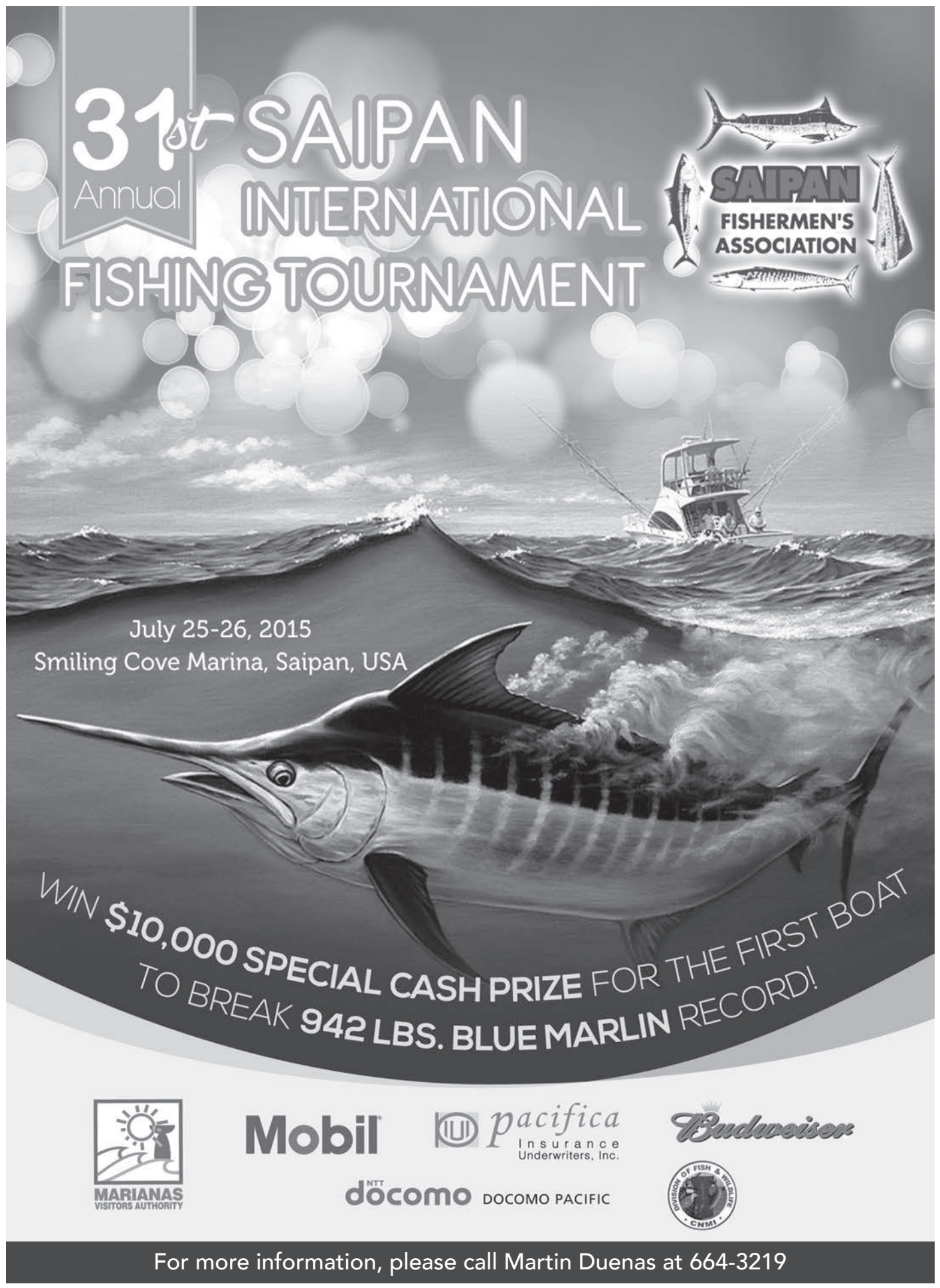
First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera for fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include other brand new vehicles donated by Triple J Motors, Joeten Motors, and Club C. Pacifica Insurance and Club C are also sponsoring cash prizes as hole-in-one prizes, while Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is also offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize. Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prize for closest to pin competition with a 25-year-old bottle of Chivas Regal.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Hillary Agulto at 236-2571. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(TOC)***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DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE CNMI
For more information, please call Martin Duenas at 664-3219

A new, Spanish-style Vino Bar to reopen tomorrow

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

WHAT'S COOKING!

Aqua Resort Club's Vino Bar will be having its grand reopening tomorrow, Saturday.

From a contemporary-style bar, Vino is now a Spanish-style bar, serving *tapas* and Spanish wines like crianza and tempranillo, among others.

FOR RESERVATIONS
Tel: 322-1234

According to Food and Beverage manager Rom Manzon, their *vino* (wines) and *cava* (champagne-like drinks) come straight from Spain. Spanish beers will also be made available.

Trademark wines from other regions such as Robert Mondavi's from Napa Valley will, however, still be served at the Vino Bar.

Some of the tapas that are now part of their menu are *lengua estofado con chorizo*, *paella* and cheese platters. But of course local favorites such as *kelaguen* will still be available for customers who prefer them.

According to Manzon, Spanish-style entertainment will also be provided. Guitars and lively music will be played for that Spanish festive theme.

For their special opening night, though, Vino Bar will be showcasing flamenco dancers at 6pm, 7:30pm and 9pm.

For the first night, Vino Bar will be selling tickets for $20, inclusive of one choice of wine, beer, or cocktail. Limited seats are available and gates will open at 5pm.

In succeeding days, Manzon said that they will be holding happy hour every day from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.

For reservations, call Aqua Resort Club at 322-1234.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Aqua Resort Club general manager Kevin Tsurui and F&B operations manager Rom Manzon are behind Vino Bar's renovations. Vino Bar will be having its grand reopening as a Spanish-style bar tomorrow at 5pm.

13 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged 13 Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are Tanapag Meeting Hall, Garapan Fishing Dock, San Jose Beach, San Antonio Lift, Central Repair Shop, Garapan Beach drainage, Civic Center Beach, DPW Channel Bridge, Garapan Beach, Sugar Dock, Smiling Cove, Chalan Laulau Beach, and CK District 2 drainage.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP15 – RED003

PUBLISHED DATE(S): July 3, 10, and 17
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: August 21, 2015

"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN CHALAN KANOA, SAIPAN"

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of commercial leasing and developing the following public lands in the Lali 4 beach area:

1) Lot 060 H 03, containing an area of approximately 5,145 square meters, more or less, in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as is; and

2) Lot 047 H 04, containing an area of approximately 1,384 square meters, more or less, in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. A non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US $3,500.00)** is required to receive an RFP Packet. Payment must be made by certified or cashier's check payable to: ***Department of Public Lands.***

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by mail. The request must be received by DPL no later than July 17, 2015, 4:30pm ChST, reference **"RFP15-RED003 LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN CHALAN KANOA, SAIPAN"**, and include a certified or cashier's check payable to ***Department of Public Lands*** for the amount of US$3,500.00. RFP packets issued to proposers will be numbered for identification and shall not be copied for distribution to other parties. Requests and payment should be sent to the address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, July 17, 2015 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

PEDRO A. TENORIO, Secretary
Department of Public Lands

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI) GOVERNMENT

RFP15 – RED004

PUBLISHED DATE(S): July 17, 24, 31
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 04, 2015

"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN"

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of commercial leasing and developing the following public lands (former MPLC building and adjacent lot to the south):

1) Lot 186 E 02, containing an area of approximately 9,127 square meters, more or less, in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as is, and

2) Lot 204 E 01, containing an area of approximately 13,921square meters, more or less, in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. A non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US $3,500.00)** is required to receive an RFP Packet. Payment must be made by certified or cashier's check payable to: ***Department of Public Lands***.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by mail. The request must be received by DPL no later than July 31, 2015, 4:30pm ChST, reference **"RFP15-RED004 LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN"**, and include a certified or cashier's check payable to Department of Public Lands for the amount of US$3,500.00. RFP packets issued to proposers will be numbered for identification and shall not be copied for distribution to other parties. Requests and payment should be sent to the address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, July 31, 2015 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/ PEDRO A. TENORIO
Secretary, Department of Public Lands

SKYWALKER

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LIBERATION
FESTIVITIES

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JULY 18TH Liberation Festivities

Parade
Start from National Office Supply

8:30am Matua Riders
Mayor of Saipan The Honorable David Apatang
Liberation Day Executive Committee Chairman
Mr. Christopher Leon Guerrero
Liberation Day Committee President Mr. Louis Rodgers

8:45am VIPS:

Honorable Lieutenant Governor Ralph Torres
Skywalker Managing Director Dr. Hu Bo
House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
Commander for Joint Regional Marianas Admiral Bette Bolivar
Northern Islands Mayor Honorable Jerome Aldan
Municipal Council Members
Philippines Consulate Mr. Eli Arago
Japan Consulate Mr. Hitoshi Kikuchi
Mariana Visitors Authority Chairwoman Mrs. Marian Pierce
President of Tan Holdings Mr. Jerry Tan
Korean Association Vice President Mr. Jun Soo Park
PDI Mr. Takahiro Tomie

9:00am Parade Starts

Department of Public Safety (DPS) Color Guards
Grand Marshall -- Former Chief Justice Jose S. Dela Cruz
Man' Amko King and Queen Royal Court
2014 Liberation Day Royal Court -- Pressel Camacho
CNMI JROTC
Saipan Neighborhood Watch and more
Floats

Performance
Garapan Fishing Base

1:00pm-1:30pm:	Disc Sound
1:30pm-2:30pm:	Marvin DlGuerrero
2:30pm-3:30pm:	BaRaHa Band
3:30pm-4:30pm:	TekaNaha Nui
4:30pm-5:00pm:	Josh Castro (ZZ)
5:00pm-6:00pm:	HDMP
6:00pm-6:30pm:	Cab Dancers
6:30pm-7:00pm:	Simiyan Ninala
7:00pm-7:15pm:	Announce the Winner of Mascot Naming Contest
7:15pm-7:30pm:	Saipan Southern Warriors
7:30pm-8:00pm:	ZengZung / Fackie Zero / Pozzy D
8:00pm-8:25pm:	Saipan Music & Dance
8:25pm-8:30pm:	Announce the Winner of Float
8:30pm-9:00pm:	Raffle Drawing
9:00pm-9:30pm:	Fireworks
9:30pm-10:00pm:	Saipan Music & Dance
10:00pm-11:00pm:	Tru Marianas Band

BEST SUNSHINE
太平洋娛樂

Nation

George HW Bush falls, breaks bone in neck, hospitalized

Bush

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP)—Former President George H.W. Bush, at 91 the oldest living former president, was being treated at a hospital early Thursday for a broken bone in his neck suffered in a fall and was wearing a brace.

Bush, the 41st U.S. president, fell on Wednesday at his summer home in Kennebunkport but was doing OK, a Bush spokesman said.

"41 fell at home in Maine today and broke a bone in his neck," spokesman Jim McGrath tweeted on Wednesday night. "His condition is stable—he is fine—but he'll be in a neck brace."

Bush was being treated at Portland's Maine Medical Center, where a children's hospital is named for his wife. The medical center confirmed his condition was stable but said it was premature to speculate about when he'll be released. It said he would be there at least overnight.

Bush, who has a form of Parkinson's disease and uses a motorized scooter or a wheelchair for mobility, has suffered other recent health setbacks.

He was hospitalized in Houston in December for about a week for shortness of breath. He spent Christmas 2012 in intensive care at the same Houston hospital for a bronchitis-related cough and other issues.

Bush, a Republican, served two terms as Ronald Reagan's vice president before being elected president in 1988. After one term, highlighted by the success of the 1991 Gulf War in Kuwait, he lost to Democrat Bill Clinton amid voters' concerns about the economy.

ACROSS THE NATION

Trump campaign sets his personal fortune at $10 billion

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump filed financial documents with federal campaign regulators on Wednesday and set his personal fortune at more than $10 billion with an annual income of more than $362 million. Members of his staff had said that Trump would release the financial documents themselves, but they issued only a press release that announced the filing and included a few financial details. It provided little information about how he calculated his net worth. The $10 billion figure—up nearly 15 percent since the previous year, by Trump's calculation—would make him the wealthiest person ever to run for president, far surpassing previous magnates like Ross Perot, business heirs like Steve Forbes or private-equity investors like Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP nominee.

Crews head out to plane wreckage; teen survivor returns home

SEATTLE (AP)—Ground search crews headed to the wreckage early Wednesday of a small airplane that crashed into a Washington state mountainside over the weekend, while the teenager who survived the impact and hiked her way off the rugged slope was recovering at home. Searchers under the direction of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office left at 8 a.m. Wednesday, but no positive identification can be made of the plane or its occupants until crews reach the site, said Barbara LaBoe, a Washington state Transportation Department spokeswoman. Survivor Autumn Veatch, 16, has said Leland and Sharon Bowman of Marion, Montana, her step-grandparents, did not survive the Saturday crash. She provided searchers with clues to the location of the wreckage. The plane piloted by Leland Bowman was bringing her home from a Montana visit.

New California law recognizes cheerleaders as employees

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Jerry Brown has approved legislation recognizing California's professional cheerleaders as employees who are entitled to minimum wage and overtime. The Democratic governor announced Wednesday that he signed AB202, requiring that sports teams employ cheerleaders as workers instead of contractors. It provides them with sick leave and overtime pay, as well as other labor protections available to team staff. The law, which will take effect in 2016, is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation. A similar bill in New York is pending. Democratic Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez introduced the bill after Oakland Raiderette cheerleaders filed a wage-theft lawsuit. Gonzalez, who cheered at Stanford, said many professional cheerleaders are treated like glorified volunteers.

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(Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address:plebechamp80@gmail.com)
or Ben Sablan (Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com)
or Call 234-2585/235-9020

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building,
Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW-15-RFP-008

Topographic and As-Built Survey for Nativo Drive, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals for **Topographic and As-Built Survey for Nativo Drive**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulation.

Prior to being awarded a contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Request for Proposal and Scope of Work is available on or after **July 17, 2015** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan.

A **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center on **August 05, 2015.** Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 2:30 p.m. local time **August 12, 2015**. Responses to questions shall be shared by prospective proposers.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than ten (10) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only sub-consultants may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Qualifications of Principal(s) and Staff assigned to the Project – 40%**
2. **Experience and Past Performance of Firm (s) on similar Project – 35%**
3. **Response to Request For Proposal – 15%**
4. **Cost – 10%**

Sealed proposals must be marked "**DPW-15-RFP-008**". For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **August 21, 2015** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local **August 21, 2015**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, an original and five copies sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 21, 2015** and must be received no later than **September 01, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of a proposal.

Architect-Engineer Services, CNMI P/R No. 70-30.3-305

1. Contracts shall be negotiated on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications at a fair and reasonable price.
2. Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determine to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.
3. Fee proposals are solicited; however this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firms. Such fee proposals may be used by the purchasing agency in determining a fair and reasonable contract price.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

World

Greece seeks relief from lenders after first bailout test

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's troubled left-wing government is seeking urgent relief from European lenders on Thursday, a day after it pushed a harsh austerity package through parliament, triggering a revolt in the ruling party and violent demonstrations in central Athens.

Finance ministers from countries using the euro currency will hold a conference call to consider rescue financing for Greece, while the European Central Bank will mull a request from Athens to increase emergency assistance to troubled Greek banks that have been closed since July 29.

AP

Greece's Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos leaves after a parliament meeting in Athens, Thursday, July 16, 2015.

In a post-midnight vote, Greece's parliament voted 229-64 to implement more austerity measures that include pension cuts and sweeping sales tax hikes. But the large majority was provided by pro-European opposition parties and in spite of deepening dissent within Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' left-wing Syriza party.

Thirty-eight party lawmakers defied Tsipras—nearly one-in-four—including Tsipras' powerful energy minister, the speaker of parliament, and Yanis Varoufakis, the former finance minister who headed Greece's bailout strategy until his replacement 10 days ago.

The government described the vote as marking a "serious division" among its lawmakers, and indicated that dissenters in Tsipras' cabinet would be swiftly replaced in a Cabinet reshuffle.

Greeks have seen a dramatic decline in living standards since the debt-plagued country lost market access in 2010 and had to impose severe spending cuts in exchange for bailout loans from eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund.

Before the austerity vote, some 12,000 demonstrators gathered outside parliament in the biggest protest against the government since Tsipras won elections in late January. The rally turned violent and several hundred youths attacked police, torched cars, and smashed office displays.

Police said about 50 people had been detained during the hour-long clashes that involved youths hurling rocks and petrol bombs outside parliament, and riot police responding with tear gas and baton charges.

Philippine police kill 7 suspects in daylong anti-crime raid

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Nearly 500 policemen launched simultaneous raids on drug dens and other criminal hideouts in a southern Philippine city on Wednesday, killing seven suspects and arresting 39 others in one of the largest single-day anti-crime operations this year, police said.

The seven suspects were killed in separate gunbattles after they fired at police serving search warrants in the port city of Davao, said police Director Benjamin Magalong, who helped oversee the raids.

At least four syndicates involved in drug trafficking, killings and robberies were broken up, Magalong said.

About 480 policemen spread out at dawn to serve 35 search and arrest warrants in raids that led to the capture of 26 men and 13 women, he said.

"Some of these suspects resisted and fired back," Magalong said by telephone.

Rights advocates have raised concerns over the tough anti-crime methods and rhetoric of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte. Magalong said police were ready to investigate any allegations of mishandling of crime suspects.

Duterte, who is seen as a possible candidate in next year's presidential election, has denied any wrongdoing.

Violent crimes are a concern in the Philippines, along with kidnappings for ransom, extortion and banditry by al-Qaida-linked militants in the south.

Japan lower house of parliament OKs expanded military role

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's lower house of parliament on Thursday approved legislation that would allow an expanded role for the nation's military in a vote boycotted by the opposition.

The vote came one day after Prime Minster Shinzo Abe's ruling bloc forced the bills through a committee despite intensifying protests.

Opposition lawmakers walked out after their party leaders made final speeches against the bills. Only members of the Japan Restoration Party voted for their counterproposal and against the ruling party legislation.

Abe wants to strengthen the military's role to counter China's growing presence in the region and contribute more to international peacekeeping efforts.

The legislation was crafted after his Cabinet last year adopted a new interpretation of Japan's pacifist constitution, which was drafted by the U.S. and has been in place since a year after the end of World War II.

Opponents, including lawmakers, legal experts and academics, counter that the new interpretation is unconstitutional.

Polls show that about 80 percent of Japanese find the bills hard to swallow, and the majority of them say they think the legislation is unconstitutional.

The legislation now moves to the upper chamber of parliament for further debate and a vote within 60 days.

If the upper house votes down the legislation or fails to vote within 60 days, it will be sent back to the lower house for a final say. However, Thursday's approval virtually guarantees enactment of the legislation into law because the more powerful lower house's decision overrides the upper chamber's vote.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-005-15 (AIP PENDING)**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-005-15"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M., FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2015,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The procurement is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS.** Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the awarded bidder for each calendar day the completion of the delivery is delayed beyond the completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, Friday, July 10, 2015,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", and all other required forms and information as required, stipulated and contained in the bid proposal documents and specifcations, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

The proposed agreement is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A bidder having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

June 22, 2015
Date

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-019

NAVY HILL PRESSURE IMPROVEMENT & WATERLINE PROJECT – PART B

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Navy Hill Pressure Improvement & Waterline Project– Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of installation of 4"Ø Distribution line; relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals; installation of new service lateral mains; cut & cap of existing waterlines; booster pump by-pass system; replacement of non-working water meters; and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 150 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **July 10, 2015 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-019, Navy Hill Pressure Improvement & Waterline Project – Part B to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 4, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurance questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the CUC Board of Directors and Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approval. If CUC Board and CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 17, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Project Manager via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez - nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, Project Engineer.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

'I just like pigs': Cops say nude man found drinking in barn

MILLERSVILLE, Pa. (AP)—Police have charged a man with trespassing, public drunkenness and indecent exposure after he was caught on a neighbor's Pennsylvania farm in the nude, drinking beer among pigs. Police in Manor Township, Lancaster County, say 64-year-old Larry Henry told them, "I just like pigs" when they found him in the hog barn June 26 about 10:15 p.m. Henry faces a preliminary hearing Aug. 4. Arrest papers show Henry had been banned from the farm since he got caught trespassing four years ago. Police say Henry smelled of alcohol and acknowledged drinking a six-pack of beer while hanging out with the hogs. Police say the brand of beer was in keeping with the overall theme. Henry was drinking Hamm's.

Netanyahu gets yearbook from his Pennsylvania high school

CHELTENHAM, Pa. (AP)—Some suburban Philadelphia high school alumni say they've sent a 1960s yearbook to one of their most famous classmates, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Philadelphia Daily News reports classmates from Cheltenham High School's Class of 1973 sent Netanyahu his 1967 yearbook. Netanyahu left school around the time of the Six-Day War in June 1967 and joined the Israel Defense Forces, causing him to miss out on graduation and his yearbook. None of the four classmates knew Netanyahu. But they sent him a note congratulating him on winning his fourth term. They say Netanyahu responded with a personal card, thanking them and saying the yearbook brought back fond memories. The yearbook says Netanyahu was on the debate and soccer teams and the chess club while at Cheltenham.

Polish cow on the run for 2 years is finally caught

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Matylda finally moo'ved back home. The cow escaped from her Polish farm two years ago and lived a life on the lam in a nearby forest, sometimes damaging crops. She has finally been caught. Owner Leszek Zasada spoke about his adventure with the brown cow in a story broadcast Tuesday by the all-news station TVN24. He said Matylda escaped in 2013 from his farm in Zloty Stok, in Western Poland, the day after he brought her home. She survived two frigid winters on her own, but the time on the run took its toll. She lost the calf she was sometimes spotted with and returned home with many scars.

Summer hail prompts use of snowplows in South Dakota city

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP)—A brief but intense hailstorm that dropped as much as 4 inches of slippery pellets in a South Dakota city prompted officials to call out snowplows in the middle of summer. Pennington County Sheriff's Deputy Matthew Jackson tells the Rapid City Journal that the Tuesday night incident on U.S. Highway 16 south of Rapid City was "definitely weird" for mid-July. The National Weather Service says pea-size hail pelted the highway for about 15 minutes. Jackson says the area was shrouded in heavy fog as the hail melted and a few cars went off the road, but that there were no serious injuries.

Vegas weddings decline; officials consider more advertising

LAS VEGAS (AP)—At its peak, Las Vegas was home to one out of every 20 weddings in the United States. That number, however, has been dropping. The Las Vegas Sun reports that nearly 47,000 fewer couples were married in the city's little white chapels than a decade ago, despite record numbers of tourists flooding the city. The city's multimillion-dollar industry for providing easy, quick marriages has noticed increased competition as the numbers declined. Clark County Clerk Lynn Goya looked at 30 years of data and noted the steady decline. Goya has requested a $14 increase in the cost of wedding licenses, with the extra money going toward marketing the industry to engaged couples.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-111

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 11, 2015 TIME 10:00 A.M.
E-BID SUBMISSION TO: procurement@pticom.com IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED ON THIS ITB.

"PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF CISCO ROUTERS AND SWITCHES HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE WITH LICENSE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

Copies of the Specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commmonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Comissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

POI Aviation is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the monthly closing of books, preparation of financial reports, financial forecast / budgets, doing financial analysis and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system, Peachtree and Microsoft Office software. Airline industry experience preferred. CPA license is desirable but not required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Accountant (1)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting; Minimum 2 years experience in accounting; Airline industry experience preferred. Proficient with the use of SAP R3 FICO system, Peachtree and Microsoft Office software. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Senior Account Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree preferred. 5-8 years of relevant job experience in the airline ground handling service industry. Knowledge/Skill Requirement. Project supervision and management. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Excellent oral and written communication skills preferably in English and Korean, or Chinese languages. Must be able to work under time pressure.

Technical Operations Supervisor (1)
Diploma from technical/vocational course in automatic/diesel engines. Four (4) years experience as a GSE Mechanic. Two (2) years in leadership role within a maintenance organization. Extensive knowledge on Pneumatic and Hydraulic System maintenance. Extensive knowledge on specialized and motorized Equipment Electrical and Electronic maintenance. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license. Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position.

Terminal Operations Supervisor (1)
Associate's degree in related field; Five (5) years equivalent work experience; Specific airline certification as load planner; Sufficient mathematical skills to perform manual weight and balance calculations. Thorough knowledge in all areas of ramp, cargo and flight operations; Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Conflict resolution and decision-making with the ability to lead is required. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays; Must have a valid CNMI driver's license; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (3)
Graduate of technical/vocational course on automotive and diesel engines; Minimum 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines; Skilled in local parts fabrication; Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays; Must have a valid CNMI driver's license; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position

Lead Customer Service Agent (Cargo) (1)
Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Three (3) years equivalent work experience. Knowledge in all areas of cargo operations; Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations; Conflict resolution and decision-making with the ability to lead is required; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Computer literate with good typing skills; Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo-handling equipment. Must be able to lift 70 pounds. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license. Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position

Lead Customer Service Agent (Ramp) (3)
Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Three (3) years equivalent work experience. Knowledge in all areas of ramp operations; Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations; Conflict resolution and decision-making with the ability to lead is required; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Computer literate with good typing skills; Must be able to lift 70 pounds. Can operate different specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and for ramp operations. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license. Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position

Lead Airport Service Agent (Passenger) (2)
Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Three (3) years equivalent work experience. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations; Conflict resolution and decision- making with the ability to lead is required; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and a reliable means of transportation; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position

Lead Airport Service Agent (Aircraft) (1)
Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Three (3) years equivalent work experience. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations; Conflict resolution and decision- making with the ability to lead is required; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and a reliable means of transportation; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position.

Airport Service Agent (Aircraft) - Part Time (6)
Must have at least 6 months related experience. Must be able to routinely move equipment and/or items up to 70 pounds and work well under time pressure. Must be able to regularly ascend/descend stairs to service airplanes. Must be able to stand, lift, bend, push and pull for extended time. Must be willing to work outside in all types of weather and elevated noise levels within the airport environment. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays; Must have a reliable means of transportation; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position.

Load Planning Specialist – Part Time (1)
Associate's degree; * Minimum 2 years experience in functions such as preparing aircraft loading plans, loading and offloading aircraft, operating equipment and ensuring security of cargo in flight; Previous airline and airport operations experience preferred. Strong mathematical skills-ability to formulate and evaluate correct load balance. Strong communication skills-ability to effectively and concisely communicate with station personnel. Strong decision making skills-ability to plan, implement and manage situation. Multitasking-ability to handle multiple high-stress tasks simultaneously. Ability to work for a 24/7 airline operations; days, nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a reliable means of transportation; Reliable, punctual attendance is an essential function of the position.

Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician (1)
Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. AS Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering. Preferably with two years experience on Airframe and Power Plant maintenance; Have work experience on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Must be skilled in use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA and A&P License or an equivalent foreign license. Has at least 2 years leadership experience in similar field of work. Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license.

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (Full-Time (3) and Part-time (4))
Perform various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to aircraft to airworthy condition; AS Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering; Minimum 2 years experience on Airframe and Power Plant maintenance; Experience on narrow and wide body aircraft; Must possess either a current U.S. FAA A&P license, equivalent foreign license and experience; Must be flexible to work any shift in a 24/7 operation, including nights, weekends and holidays; Must have a valid CNMI driver's license.

Applications can be obtained at the POI Aviation Building, International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than July 27, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Cosmos Distributing Co., Ltd. Is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Sales Representatives (2)
Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing or Accounting with minimum of 3 years experience in sales. Proven skills in product marketing and providing excellent customer service are required. Must be proficient in MS Excel and Word for preparation of reports and Outlook for email. Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales targets. Applicant needs to be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

Sales Representative – Hospitality Industry and Lubricants
A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Preferably with Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing. Sales experience with hotel, F&B, and restaurants together with knowledge of their inventory and supply operations an advantage. Knowledge of petroleum lubricants is a plus. Proven good track record in product marketing and excellent customer service are required. Must be proficient in MS Excel and Word for preparation of report and Outlook for email. Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales targets. Applicant needs to be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

Business Operations Manager
Graduate of 4-year Business or Accounting course and at least 5 years of progressive management experience in wholesaling and product distribution. Minimum of 5 years general management experience in warehouse, sales, purchasing and distribution activities. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, MAS90/Sage Accounting Software and Microsoft software. Must have a solid track record in meeting business objective.

Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experiences. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@cosmosdistributing.com not later than July 25, 2015.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than Friday, July 24, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in airport master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer
Date: July 16, 2015

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than Friday, July 24, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in airport master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

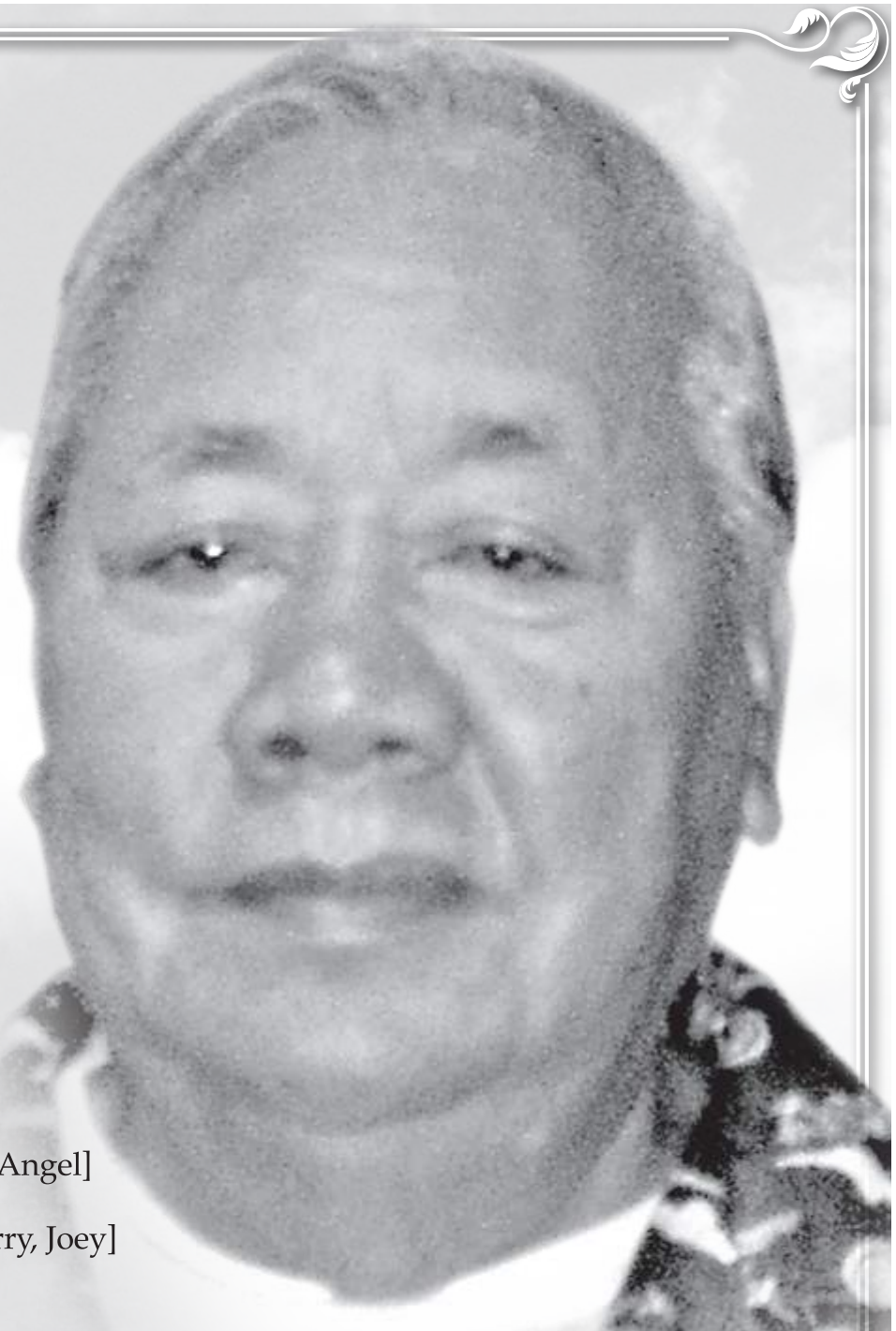
An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer
Date: July 16, 2015

In Loving Memory of
†Jose Hocog Naputi
December 02, 1939 – July 14, 2015



In his new life, he now joins his:

Wife in his First Marriage: †Matilde SN. Sablan Naputi
Parents: †Enrique Ogo Naputi
†Sara Hocog Naputi
Parents In Law: †Telesforo Santos Ada
†Maria Sasamoto Ada
†Jose San Nicolas Sablan
†Rosa San Nicolas Sablan
Daughter: †Bernadita Naputi Dela Cruz
Son In Law: †Francisco Arriola

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Hinara Ada Naputi

Children & Grandchildren:
Magdalena Naputi & Ernie Bell [Valerie Kay]
†Bernadita N. & Steven Dela Cruz [Matilde/Dulal (Berlena Ann), Steven Jr. (Kindu, Santiago, Francisco)]
Mariano S. Naputi
Joseph S. Naputi
Augustin & Melinda Naputi [Randy, Augustin Jr., Matilde, Atanacio, †Angel]
Maryann N. & Poland Yamada [Bo/Monissa (Kaden), Rosemary, Jose]
Denita S. Naputi/Albert Cepeda [Marjolyn(Denelyn, Gus), Blaren, Larry, Joey]
Martin S. & Erlinda Naputi [Marlyn (Isaiah), Maelyn, Jose]
Francisco S. Naputi [Kaishalynn]
Jasen Ada [J.R., R.J., A.J.]
Jonathan & Joice Ada [Jonalyn, J.J., Jace]
Jowel A. Naputi & Mayumi Nakazato [TJ, Peleni, Sara, Jathaniel]
Janet V./Felix Salas

Parents at Heart:
Margarita N./†Eugenio Tenorio

Brothers, Sisters and Spouses
Maria N. & †Larry Saralu
†Consolacion N. & Jesus Mettao
Antonio H. & Maria Naputi
Elizabeth N. & †Jim Dudley
†Vicente H. Naputi
†Francisco H. Naputi
Rosa N. & Ambrocio Ayuyu
Miguel H. Naputi & Barbara Borja
†Juanita H. Naputi
Bernadita H. Naputi & Angel Ayuyu
Lucia Ana H. Naputi/Jun Awid

Brothers In-Law/Sisters In-Law and Spouses:
†Estefania S.N. & †Tobias Muna
†Francisca S. & †Obed Celis
†Mariana S. & †Luis Cabrera
†Magdalena S. Chinel
†Margarita S. Palacios & +Joaquin Palacios
†Rosario S. & †Antonio Santos
†Mariano S.N. Sablan
Rosa S. & †Rudy Pangelinan
Milagro S. & +Efrain Palacios
†Josepha S. & Joaquin Delos Santos
Victoria S. & Jose Villagomez

Brothers In-Law/Sisters In-Law and Spouses:
Maria/Jaime Sasamoto
Juan/†Josephine, Malou Ada
Rosa/Mariano Camacho
Candido/Somjai Ada
Gregorio/Mary Ada

Special Friends:
HIMAWARI FAMILY

He will also be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated for the repose of his soul at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am and Holy Rosary is being prayed each evening at 7:00pm at Kristo Rai Church. Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2015. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 9:00am to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Service will be at 9:30am followed by Holy Rosary at 9:45am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00pm. Interment Service will follow at Mt. Carmel cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Hinara Ada Naputi, Children and families
Children and families of the late +Matilde Sablan Naputi

Life & Style

Obama: No mechanism to revoke Cosby's Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Wednesday rejected the idea of revoking Bill Cosby's Presidential Medal of Freedom because of sexual misconduct allegations.

"There's no precedent for revoking a medal," Obama said. "We don't have that mechanism."

The president, who was asked about Cosby's medal at a news conference, declined to address specific allegations against the entertainer because there are pending legal matters. But Obama left no question about his thinking on the larger issue of drugs, consent and rape.

"If you give a woman, or a man, for that matter, without his or her knowledge a drug, and then have sex with that person without consent, that's rape," he said. "And I think this country, any civilized country, should have no tolerance for rape."

Court documents obtained by The Associated Press have revealed that Cosby acknowledged under oath in 2005 that he obtained Quaaludes to give to women with whom he wanted to have sex. The documents weren't clear on whether the women consented to being drugged.

AP
In this July 9, 2002 file photo, President George W. Bush lets out a laugh after failing to get the clasp together on Bill Cosby's Presidential Medal of Freedom, which he holds, after Bush tried to put on the entertainer, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

The leader of a sexual assault awareness group that has urged the White House to revoke Cosby's medal expressed disappointment in the president's statement.

Angela Rose, executive director of Promoting Awareness Victim Empowerment, said there are plenty of ways for the president to take a more emphatic stand.

"Allowing Cosby to maintain this coveted symbol suggests that we as a society condone coercive sexual behavior," Rose said. "This is an unprecedented moment, and we need to show zero tolerance for sexual assault."

The organization has suggested three ways Obama could deal with Cosby's medal: issue an executive order rescinding it, issue a personal statement that it should be rescinded or ask Cosby to return it. More than 10,000 people have signed the group's petition calling for the medal to be rescinded.

"Revoking the medal would send a powerful message to America's youth on the critical importance of consent," Rose said, adding that her group has requested a meeting with the president and first lady Michelle Obama.

More than two dozen women have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct in the past four decades, and many of them alleged that he drugged them before sex.

Lawyer for singers: 'Blurred Lines' copyright fight not over

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A ruling upholding a copyright infringement verdict against Pharrell Williams, Robin Thicke and rapper T.I. over their hit song "Blurred Lines" will be appealed, a lawyer for the entertainers said.

Attorney Howard King wrote in a statement late Tuesday that the musicians independently created "Blurred Lines," which was 2013's biggest hit song. The men had been sued by Marvin Gaye's children over the song, claiming it copied their father's 1977 hit, "Got to Give It Up."

A jury agreed in March and awarded the family nearly $7.4 million, but U.S. District Judge John Kronstadt trimmed the verdict to $5.3 million on Tuesday. He also ruled that Gaye's family should receive future royalties from "Blurred Lines."

Jurors found that T.I., who received songwriting credit and a share of the royalties, did not commit copyright infringement, but Kronstadt ruled Tuesday that other elements of the jury's verdict mean the rapper must be included in the judgment.

Armed men ransack Chris Brown's home, lock aunt in closet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three armed men in masks forced their way into a Los Angeles home owned by Chris Brown, locked the R&B singer's aunt in a closet and then ransacked the place for valuables, police said.

Brown

Brown was not at the home during the robbery around 2 a.m. Wednesday, Officer Liliana Preciado said. The suspects got away with an unknown amount of cash, electronics and personal items, she said.

Brown's aunt was not hurt. Police didn't know how long she was in the closet.

Detectives were canvassing the neighborhood around the gated property at the end of a secluded street in the San Fernando Valley and looking for surveillance camera footage.

"We're trying to see if there's any video evidence that might have picked up the suspects," Lt. Kirk Kelley told reporters at the scene.

Investigators have not released descriptions of the suspects, who were armed with handguns and wore bandanas around their faces, police said.

Brown came to the home several hours later to check on his aunt and then left, Preciado said.

Johnny Depp's wife charged with smuggling pooches

SYDNEY (AP)—Johnny Depp's wife, Amber Heard, has been charged with illegally bringing the couple's dogs to Australia—an incident that captured global attention after the nation's agriculture minister angrily ordered the pooches to get out of the country or face death.

Heard was charged this week with two counts of illegally importing Pistol and Boo into Australia and one count of producing a false document, the Commonwealth Department of Public Prosecutions said on Thursday.

The importation charges carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of 102,000 Australian dollars ($75,000). The false document charge, which relates to information on an incoming passenger card, carries a penalty of up to one year in prison and a fine of AU$10,200.

The doggie debacle began in May, after Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce accused Depp, 52, of smuggling the couple's Yorkshire terriers aboard his private jet when he returned to Australia to resume filming of the fifth movie in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series.

Australia has strict quarantine regulations to prevent diseases such as rabies from spreading to its shores. Bringing pets into the country involves applying for a permit and quarantine on arrival of at least 10 days.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Paperback edition of 'The Prophet' coming next week

NEW YORK (AP)—It only took 92 years for the U.S. publisher of Kahil Gibran's inspirational classic "The Prophet" to release the book in paperback. The Penguin Random House imprint Vintage Books told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the new edition would be available July 21, two weeks before the opening of an animated film adaptation that features the voices of Liam Neeson and Selma Hayek. "The Prophet" has sold more than 9 million copies in the U.S. alone since it was first published in 1923. It offers reflections on everything from marriage to clothing. Vintage plans a first printing of 50,000 for the paperback. Gibran, a native of Lebanon, died in 1931.

Escape of 'El Chapo' boosts sales for drug war novel

NEW YORK (AP)—The escape of Mexican drug lord "El Chapo" has meant more sales for a crime novel that features the escape of a Mexican drug lord. Don Winslow's "The Cartel," published last month to enthusiastic reviews, jumped within 24 hours from No. 287 to No. 66 as of midday Wednesday on Amazon.com's best-seller list. Winslow's novel is a follow-up to a previous work on the drug wars, "The Power of the Dog," and centers on a deadly rivalry between a Drug Enforcement Administration agent and a Mexican cartel kingpin based on El Chapo. Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman escaped Saturday from a maximum security prison in Mexico. He also escaped in 2001, which was fictionalized in "The Cartel."

Secret engagement should stay secret awhile longer

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend, "Derek," for four years. After a night of emotion-filled discussion, he asked me to marry him. I said yes, but it has always been a difficult idea for me to wrap my head around. I'm turning 21 and although that may be old enough for some people to get married and have kids, it scares the heck out of me.

I love Derek and I want to marry him one day. He assured me we could stay "engaged" for a few years, but it still makes me uneasy. We don't have a ring yet, and we agreed we wouldn't tell our families until we get one. It doesn't feel real because there's no ring and no one knows—could that be why I'm so nervous?

I need a second opinion and some advice on whether to wait to tell anyone or tell people now.

COLD FEET

DEAR COLD FEET: An engagement with no ring and no announcement hardly seems like an engagement at all. That's why you and Derek should rethink making any announcements until you BOTH feel ready to take such a big step. When the time is right, the idea of marriage and children will make you feel happy, not frightened.

Frankly, I think your fears may be well founded because you have had little life experience—and once the ball starts rolling, stopping it may be complicated. That's why you and Derek should remain in a holding pattern until you are more confident about what you want to do.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Although I am not considered bad looking, I'm not extremely beautiful either. Guys find my friends prettier than me.

For a few years I have been thinking about getting a nose job. My parents say I need to wait for all my facial features to adjust to my growing body to prevent facial disfigurement in the future. I think that's just an excuse. When is the right age to get a nose job?

ALABAMA TEEN

DEAR TEEN: This is a question that should be answered by your personal physician. You didn't state your age, but I don't think your parents are stalling. According to WebMD, it is very important that before a young person has a nose job the facial bones have reached "adult size." The usual age for girls' noses to mature is 15 or 16. (Interestingly, for boys it is a year or so later.)

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My father had a son with a woman while he was dating my mother. Mom made Dad choose between her and his son. He chose Mom, and has had no contact with the boy.

Dad doesn't want to interfere with his now-grown son's life. I, on the other hand, would love to reach out and meet my half-brother. Would it be overstepping boundaries if I do this?

SOMEONE'S SIBLING IN MICHIGAN

DEAR SOMEONE'S SIBLING: I'd be curious to know how you became aware of your half-brother's existence, because I'll bet the topic wasn't discussed in your home. While I might have no objection to you reaching out to your half-sibling—because I am not emotionally involved—your mother will feel betrayed and angry. If you decide to move forward, be prepared.

■■■

TO MY MUSLIM READERS: It is time for the breaking of the Ramadan fast. Happy Eid al-Fitr, everyone.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

IF YOU STICK YOUR TONGUE OUT FOR A LONG TIME, IT DRIES UP! TRY IT!
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT HIS TONGUE TO DRY UP?!
BECAUSE THEN IT FEELS REALLY WEIRD WHEN YOU TOUCH IT.
I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT.
SOME PEOPLE JUST AREN'T OPEN TO REVELATORY EXPERIENCES.

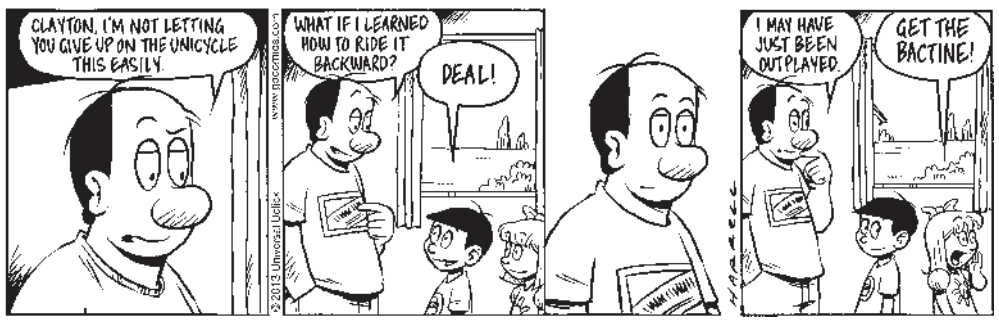
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

EVERY MORNING I WAKE UP AND THINK...
"TODAY IS A NEW AND EXCITING DAY!"
THEN I SEE YOU
THEY DON'T CALL ME "MR. REALITY" FOR NOTHING, PAL
JIM DAVIS

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CLAYTON, I'M NOT LETTING YOU GIVE UP ON THE UNICYCLE THIS EASILY.
WHAT IF I LEARNED HOW TO RIDE IT BACKWARD?
DEAL!
I MAY HAVE JUST BEEN OUTPLAYED.
GET THE BACTINE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD GO CHECK ON THOSE TWO KIDS WE HIRED TO DO OUR YARDWORK?
NO. I'M SURE THEY'RE DOING FINE. I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THOSE TWO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

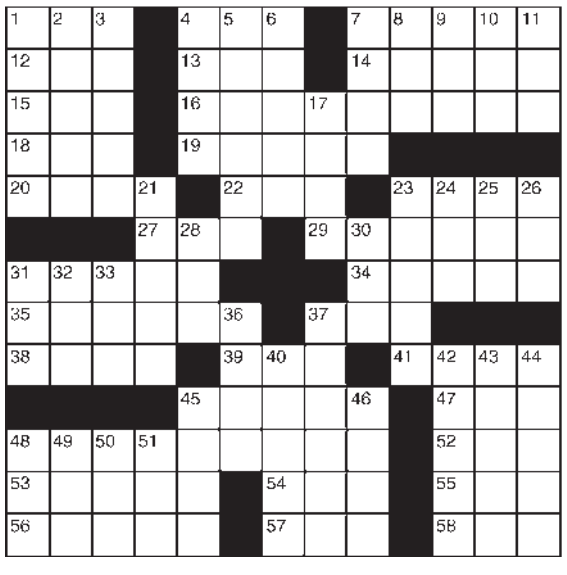
ACROSS
1 Popular pet
4 Hot tub
7 Inundated
12 Past
13 Matterhorn, e.g.
14 Antiflood structure
15 Burst
16 1989 Michener novel
18 Mound stat
19 "— Landing"
20 Bronx cheer
22 Away from WSW
23 Helps
27 "Guinness Book" suffix
29 1980s hairstyle
31 Pueblo material
34 Thin and light
35 Hardy companion
37 Glutton
38 Vega's constellation
39 Big bother
41 Egg container?
45 Pedro's pal
47 Doo follower
48 Pseudochocolate source
52 Anger
53 Spin
54 Wildebeest
55 Photog's need
56 Domestic female 1-Across
57 CIA forerunner
58 Definite article

DOWN
1 Heist, e.g.
2 Old marketplace
3 November birthstone
4 Bag
5 Pluto, formerly
6 Griller's garb
7 Priestly robes
8 Symbol of intrigue
9 Rd.
10 Vast expanse
11 Coop dweller
17 Thing
21 Zoo equine
23 Straighten
24 Under the weather
25 Rep.'s rival
26 Unkempt home
28 Witness
30 Venusian vessel?
31 With 32-Down, from dawn to dusk
32 See 31-Down
33 "— American Cousin"
36 Easter entree
37 Navajo homes
40 San —
42 Decree
43 Jessica Parker or Michelle Gellar
44 Motif
45 With skill
46 Responsibility
48 1/20 ton (Abbr.)
49 "Eureka!"
50 Cage piece
51 2013 Derby winner

Solution time: 25 mins.

O	F	F		I	S	M	S		W	H	E	N
A	I	R		S	K	U	A		H	O	B	O
F	R	E	E	W	I	L	L		E	N	O	S
		E	R	E		L	A	T	R	I	N	E
C	O	B	R	A	S		D	O	E			
A	L	I		R	U	G		W	A	F	T	S
G	I	R	D		M	A	Q		T	R	A	P
Y	O	D	E	L		L	U	V		E	L	I
			G	Y	M		R	E	J	E	C	T
F	L	A	R	E	U	P		N	I	H		
A	U	H	A		F	R	E	E	F	A	L	L
R	A	I	D		F	O	R	E		N	E	O
M	U	L	E		S	P	A	R		D	A	Y

Yesterday's answer 7-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Follow through. Don't underestimate the changes others can bring to your life. Focus on your strengths and be courageous in the way you go about your business. Don't fold under pressure or sit back when you need to speak up. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Join forces with like-minded people who share your goals. Friends, neighbors and relatives will offer suggestions that can make your life easier. Take precautions when traveling or dealing with institutions or authority figures. Speak from the heart. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't jump to conclusions. Get all the facts and make decisions based on truth and facts. A change of heart will lead to an unexpected surprise. Incorporate your uniqueness to whatever task you take on and you will make a good impression. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take on as much as you can. Your unique way of sizing up what needs to be done will put you ahead of any competition you face. Let your creative imagination lead the way, and everything else will fall into place. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Embrace change and put negativity and obstacles behind you. Focus on what can be done. Interacting with people who share your concerns and interests will help you develop a workable solution that will lead to your advancement. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Participate in functions and events that interest you. Don't let an emotional situation stop you from engaging in the practices and pastimes that you enjoy most. Your dedication to your beliefs will ensure you receive the support you require. ✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Rethink your strategy if you face obstacles. It's important not to make a big deal out of something that requires you to take a pass and move on. Let your heart and emotions confirm that you are making the right choice. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow your dreams. Let your creative skills float to the surface and lead you down a path you find satisfying. Success is within reach, but you must be true to who you are and cognizant of what you are capable of doing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may desire change, but don't alter anything unless you are positive it won't cause problems with a partner's friends or neighbors. Love is highlighted, and making a promise will help you seal a deal that you've been working toward. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotional deception regarding a money matter or an old friend is apparent. Get to the bottom of any situation that has the potential to influence your reputation or status. Time is money, and a strategic move on your part can help you advance. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Domestic chores or tending to the need of a family member or household necessity will help you improve your life. Love is in the stars, and making personal changes to the way you live will ensure a better future. Explore and experiment. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Network, expand your interests or make positive changes to your home or surroundings. Property investments, settlements, legal documents or contracts will bend in your favor. Make plans to celebrate. Pampering will lead to self-improvement and ease your stress. ✪✪

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4			9	7			
		2				6		7
	7		6				3	
5						4		
6								1
		9						8
	5				9		8	
4		8				3		
			3	2			1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	8	9	2	4	7	5	1
4	9	1	5	7	3	6	2	8
5	7	2	6	1	8	4	3	9
1	5	9	7	8	2	3	4	6
2	8	4	3	6	5	1	9	7
3	6	7	1	4	9	5	8	2
9	2	6	4	5	7	8	1	3
8	1	5	2	3	6	9	7	4
7	4	3	8	9	1	2	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

IT'S TIME FOR A PAR-TAY! **Solution: 8 letters**

E	E	T	C	E	M	U	T	S	O	C	B	T	P	P
S	Y	G	N	I	G	N	I	S	U	M	A	L	U	S
I	L	T	R	E	S	A	I	R	C	E	A	B	H	T
R	I	S	I	U	M	U	T	A	R	Y	S	P	O	F
P	M	S	Y	N	L	E	M	T	R	N	L	S	S	I
R	A	E	R	T	R	P	T	A	O	A	A	K	T	G
U	F	R	T	E	I	E	S	I	N	C	U	N	O	N
S	S	D	F	N	M	R	T	N	C	H	G	I	G	I
S	O	R	G	O	E	A	O	A	D	X	H	R	E	R
D	T	C	A	V	R	I	E	R	R	P	E	D	T	E
G	A	N	I	B	S	M	H	R	O	F	U	O	H	H
E	A	N	E	A	A	S	A	U	T	S	A	O	E	T
K	N	L	C	V	L	S	P	L	G	S	Y	F	R	A
A	E	C	A	E	E	C	H	I	P	S	E	M	A	G
C	O	C	K	T	A	I	L	S	D	N	E	I	R	F

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Additonal Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transporation and must agree to drug test. And can work in flexible hours.

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YANO Enterprises, Inc.

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Restaurant Supervisor (1): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

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Cook (4): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.
Applicants of positions listed above except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience) are required to have a minimum of 2-4 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. No phone calls please.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Email: commonwealthcasinocommission@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: July 9, 2015 Closing Date: July 20, 2015

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") announces the following Job Vacancies for immediate recruitment:

	POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
1.	SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR	Administration	$33,000 - $38,000	CCC-2015-A
2.	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	Administration	$25,000 - $30,000	CCC-2015-B
3.	MANAGER – Division Head	Administration	$40,000 - $45,000	CCC-2015-C
4.	ACCOUNTANT IV	Administration - Admin Services	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2015-D
5.	HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER	Administration - Admin Services	$25,000 - $30,000	CCC-2015-E
6.	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	Administration - Admin Services	$17,000 - $22,000	CCC-2015-F
7.	INSPECTOR II (2 positions)	Administration – Permit & Licensing	$27,000 - $32,000	CCC-2015-G
8.	INSPECTOR I (2 positions)	Administration – Permit & Licensing	$25,000 - $30,000	CCC-2015-H
9.	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (2 positions)	Administration–Permit & Licensing	$15,000 - $18,000	CCC-2015-I
10.	MANAGER – Division Head	Enforcement & Investigations	$40,000 - $45,000	CCC-2015-J
11.	INVESTIGATOR–Senior Level (2 positions)	Enforcement & Investigations	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2015-K
12.	ENFORCEMENT OFFICER II (3 positions)	Enforcement & Surveillance	$27,000 - $32,000	CCC-2015-L
13.	ENFORCEMENT OFFICER I (3 positions)	Enforcement & Surveillance	$23,000 - $28,000	CCC-2015-M
14.	MANAGER – Division Head	Audit & Compliance	$60,000 - $65,000	CCC-2015-N
15.	AUDITOR – Financial Audit	Audit & Compliance	$39,000 - $44,000	CCC-2015-O
16.	AUDITOR – Technology Audit	Audit & Compliance	$39,000 - $44,000	CCC-2015-P
17.	FINANCIAL ANALYST	Audit & Compliance	$37,000 - $42,000	CCC-2015-Q

- Salary: Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- Location: Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- Benefits: Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- Exempted Positions: These positions are exempted from the CNMI Civil Service system per P.L. 18-56.

Requirements: A. CNMI Government Application for Employment (OPM-03)
B. Resume with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
C. Police Clearance (recent)
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of Valid Identification

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations on some positions.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the POSITION DESCRIPTIONS and Requirements, please contact Ms. Ruth Ann Sakisat at 233-1857 or at commonwealthcasinocommission@gmail.com. Interested persons should submit their Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the Commonwealth Casino Commission Office, Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.

Houston, Bryant among franchised players to sign big deals

NEW YORK (AP)—Big names. Huge playmakers. And, now, enormous paydays.

Four of five NFL players who had franchise tags assigned to them signed long-term contracts shortly before the deadline for deals Wednesday.

That includes Kansas City's Justin Houston, who became the highest-paid linebacker in NFL history, Dallas wide receiver Dez Bryant, Denver wide receiver Demaryius Thomas and New England kicker Stephen Gostkowski.

New York Giants defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul, however, didn't get a long-term deal after he injured his right hand in a July 4 fireworks accident.

Teams can designate a player before free agency in March for the franchise tag, which allows that team to retain the rights to a scheduled unrestricted free agent.

Here's a look at the five franchised players who made headlines Wednesday:

AP

In this Dec. 28, 2014, file photo, Kansas City Chiefs outside linebacker Justin Houston (50) celebrates a sacking of San Diego Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers with Chiefs nose tackle Dontari Poe (92) looking on during the first half of an NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo.

JUSTIN HOUSTON

The Chiefs' standout pass rusher agreed to a six-year, $101 million contract just hours before the deadline for a long-term deal, the culmination of long negotiation that made the All-Pro the highest-paid linebacker in NFL history.

The deal includes $52.5 million guaranteed, a person familiar with the terms told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because terms were not disclosed by the team.

"I just had to make sure I took care of what I needed on the field," said Houston, who left the negotiations in the hands of his agent, Joel Segal.

Houston broke Derrick Thomas's franchise record with 22 sacks. He had four alone in a dynamic season-ending game against San Diego, leaving him a half-sack short of the NFL's single-season record set by the Giants' Michael Strahan. Those gaudy totals sent Houston to his third consecutive Pro Bowl and earned him first-team All-Pro honors for the first time in his four-year career.

Houston's contract is also the richest in franchise history. The only defensive player to sign a larger deal is defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, who agreed to a six-year, $114 million pact with the Miami Dolphins earlier this year.

DEZ BRYANT

The Cowboys' All-Pro receiver signed a five-year, $70 million deal after months of posturing from both sides and less than an hour before a deadline that would have required him to play under a one-year agreement.

A person close to the negotiations provided contract terms to The Associated Press because they weren't announced. The deal includes $45 million in guaranteed money.

"There was never a doubt in my mind that we wanted a long-term deal with Dez," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "We just had to get the pot right."

The 26-year-old Bryant, who led the NFL with 16 touchdowns receiving last season, had threatened to skip training camp and regular-season games without a contract to replace the $12.8 million offer for one year he had under the franchise tag.

"I smiled the whole way over here. I couldn't even say nothing but just smile and laugh, because I couldn't believe it," Bryant said in a story on the team's website. "All I could just think about is that it's a dream - a dream come true. I think the only thing that's missing is a Super Bowl."

DEMARYIUS THOMAS

The Broncos' star wide receiver signed a five-year, $70 million contract just before the deadline. It's the richest contract in franchise history and includes $43.5 million guaranteed.

Had the sides not hammered out a deal, Thomas would have played this season under the $12,823,000 franchise tag.

"Thrilled to reach a long-term deal with Demaryius," general manager John Elway tweeted. "He is one of the NFL's top WRs & will continue to be a big part of the Broncos' success!!"

That was a far different tone than the last time Elway spoke publicly about Peyton Manning's top target. It was just before the draft and Elway was asked about Thomas boycotting the team's offseason program, his only perceived leverage under the franchise tag designation. Wanting Thomas on hand as new coach Gary Kubiak installed his offense, Elway fumed then, "there's zero value in him not being here." That was about as unpleasant as things got, however.

STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI

The 31-year-old Gostkowski was closing in on a long-term deal before the deadline that could make him the highest-paid kicker in the NFL.

ESPN reported, according to sources, that Gostkowski was signing a four-year, $17.2 million contract that replaced his one-year, $4.5 million franchise tender.

Gostkowski went 35 for 37 on field-goal attempts last season, and has led the NFL in field goals in each of the last two years.

JASON PIERRE-PAUL

A person close to the negotiations told the AP that Pierre-Paul didn't get a new long-term contract deal—no surprise since his playing status has been uncertain since he was hurt in the fireworks accident.

The person spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss Pierre Paul's contract situation. The person said the team has not rescinded its $14.8 million franchise tag offer. If the Giants rescind the contract tender offer, the 26-year-old would become an unrestricted free agent.

Dollars and sense: In the NBA, money is exploding

LAS VEGAS (AP)—To understand how the business model of NBA salaries is unlike ever before, consider the cases of Reggie Jackson, Khris Middleton and DeMarre Carroll.

They're not All-Stars.

They're not exactly household names, either.

Nonetheless, the trio got a combined $210 million in deals this summer: Jackson got $80 million over five years from the Detroit Pistons, Middleton a five-year, $70 million deal to stay with the Milwaukee Bucks, and Carroll a four-year contract worth nearly $60 million to join the Toronto Raptors.

Only a couple years ago, such deals would have been considered baffling. These days, they seem quite fair.

"The numbers you hear out there, they seem crazy to think about," Miami Heat center Hassan Whiteside said.

Thanks to a $24 billion television deal that kicks in before the 2016-17 season, already skyrocketing salaries will soon reach a new stratosphere. It's hard to fathom that a league that dealt with serious labor strife four years ago and might be looking at another work stoppage in a couple years is about to become flush with so much cash.

"One of the things we're learning is that there is so much that's unpredictable when the cap is moving so dramatically as it did—as it will next year and the year after that," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "We're continuing to study how our system is absorbing the money."

Despite all the contract riches, Silver offers a major word of caution—the NBA still insists that plenty of teams are losing money.

"A significant number of teams are continuing to lose money and they continue to lose money because their expenses exceed their revenue," Silver said.

And yet to many, the riches seem richer than ever. The salary cap for this coming season was supposed to rise considerably to $67 million; it went even higher, to $70 million. The salary cap for the 2016-17 season might be $90 million. For the season after that, maybe $110 million or more.

These days, players that might not have been considered stars are getting what would recently have been star-level deals. John Wall—one of the league's elite point guards—of the Washington Wizards aired his complaints earlier this week.

"I'm getting the same as Reggie Jackson," he lamented, as quoted by CSN Washington.

Wall, a two-time All-Star, is going into the second year of a five-year, $85 million deal. Jackson cashed in after averaging nearly 18 points in 27 games with Detroit this past season, a breakout that followed 3 1/2 seasons of largely unheralded work.

"That new CBA kicked in at the right time," Wall said.

Sure, but it seems like all players are reaping benefits. Under the current CBA, player salaries are supposed to make up about 50.4 percent of the league's basketball-related income. This past season, income grew more than anticipated and that meant the league wrote a check to the National Basketball Players Association to cover the difference—roughly $57 million.

Silver thinks that might look like peanuts next year.

"We could be writing a check moving close to half a billion dollars to the players association," Silver said. "That's not of course the ideal outcome from our standpoint. ... It's happened because the revenue we generated was much higher than we had ever modeled. But we're also learning that when you have all that money coming into the system, team behavior isn't necessarily predictable either."

The numbers right now are huge, which is giving some within the game hope that the league and the union—which can opt out of the current collective bargaining agreement in two years—can avoid any more interruptions in play.

Anthony Davis got locked up by the New Orleans Pelicans for $145 million over the next five years. LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers will make $23 million this season; he could earn more than $30 million in 2016-17 if he, as would seem likely, opts out once again.

Next summer, Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma City Thunder is the expected headliner of the free-agent class, and his contract could easily set records. Just think what Stephen Curry—the league's reigning MVP and leader of the NBA champion Golden State Warriors—will make when he's a free agent again in 2017.

Some scoffed when he signed a $44 million, four-year deal in 2013. Curry seems like the biggest bargain in the game now.

"I've never seen anything like it," New York Knicks general manager Steve Mills said, when asked about how contract values keep soaring. "Obviously, it changes what happens with the league."

The growth has been steady in recent years, though now the climb seems to be much steeper. In 2011, the average annual value of new free-agent contracts was about $5 million. So far this year, it's flirting with the $10 million mark.

Whiteside will make just under $1 million this season. Next summer, it wouldn't be surprising if he landed a deal with a total worth of $80 million or more.

"Can't think about it," Whiteside said. "It's hard to process. I just worry about what I can control."

Emotional Caitlyn Jenner accepts Ashe Courage Award at ESPYs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Caitlyn Jenner accepted the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at the ESPYs on Wednesday night while urging acceptance for others who are transgender.

She received a standing ovation from some of the sporting world's biggest stars after her 10-minute speech during the annual awards honoring the year's top athletes and moments.

"This transition has been harder on me than anything I can imagine," said Jenner, who revealed she was in the process of becoming a woman in a televised interview with Diane Sawyer in April on ABC.

From the stage, Jenner thanked Sawyer, whom she called a friend.

Noting her powerful celebrity platform, the 1976 Olympic decathlon champion and current reality TV star vowed "to do whatever I can to reshape the landscape of how transgender people are viewed and treated."

Abby Wambach of the U.S. soccer team that won the Women's World Cup presented the trophy to Jenner, whose voice broke as she thanked members of her famous family, including stepdaughters Kim and Khloe Kardashian. Tears welled in the eyes of Jenner's younger daughter, Kylie, whose sister, Kendall, wiped a tear from her eye.

AP
Caitlyn Jenner accepts the Arthur Ashe award for courage at the ESPY Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Wednesday, July 15, 2015, in Los Angeles.

"I never wanted to hurt anyone else, most of all my family and my kids," said Jenner, wiping her eye.

She admitted that until earlier this year she had never met another transgender person.

The 65-year-old told the audience about trans teenagers who are bullied, beaten up, murdered or kill themselves. Jenner mentioned two people by name whose deaths particularly touched her.

"Trans people deserve something vital, they deserve your respect," she said. "From that respect comes a more compassionate community."

Jenner urged the crowd that included football, basketball, baseball and hockey superstars to remember what they say and do is "absorbed and observed by millions of people, especially young people."

"My plea for you tonight is one join me in making this one of your issues as well," she said.

Many in the crowd watched intently as Jenner spoke with little reaction on their faces.

"If you want to call me names, make jokes and doubt my intentions, go ahead because the reality is I can take it," she said. "But for thousands of kids out there coming to terms with the reality of who they are they shouldn't have to take it."

A video narrated by "Mad Men" actor Jon Hamm traced Jenner's life from the time when she was known as Bruce Jenner to her current transition. She mentioned she once considered ending her own life with a gun she owned.

She was shown applying makeup, buttoning her blouse in her closet and fastening the strap on her heeled shoes.

With her trembling hands clasped in front of her, Jenner joked with the audience about her struggle to select the cream gown she wore.

"OK girls, I get it," she said, as the audience laughed. "You've got to get the shoes, the hair, the makeup, it was exhausting. And the fashion police, please be kind on me. I'm new at this."

Jenner didn't walk the red carpet outside the Microsoft Theater in downtown Los Angeles, and she didn't appear backstage to talk with reporters, as most of the previous Ashe award recipients have done. ESPN said Jenner wanted her onstage comments to stand.

Reaction among Jenner's sporting peers on the red carpet was mixed.

Little League baseball pitcher Mo'ne Davis called Jenner "brave."

"She's really brave to have the courage to get through a lot of those things," said the 14-year-old who won best breakthrough athlete. "I know a lot of people give her a hard time about it, but just for her family to give her that support is amazing."

Former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield said, "I just know that's Bruce Jenner and I'll leave it at that."

RadarOnline.com reported Wednesday that Jenner's representatives approached ESPN suggesting the network give her the Ashe award in exchange for plugs on her upcoming E! docuseries. ESPN and ABC are owned by Disney.

"That rumor is completely false," ESPN spokesman Josh Krulewitz said. "The Arthur Ashe Courage Award and ABC interview were never connected."

Jenner's publicist Alan Nierob called the report "utterly false" and had no further comment.

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DIAL Rent-to-Own

Atkins Kroll offers 2015 Toyota Prius as TOC hole-in-one prize

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Atkins Kroll (Saipan) representatives pose with the organizers of the 2015 Tournament of Champions in front of a 2015 Toyota Prius that is featured as a hole-in-one prize in the upcoming tournament on Aug. 1 and 2, 2015.

Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Toyota has just announced that it will be offering up a brand new 2015 Toyota Prius that will be featured as a hole-in-one prize in the upcoming Tournament of Champions.

"Throughout its 20 year history, the Tournament of Champions has enabled the success of many beautification projects and destination enhancement activities throughout the island," said Doug Brennan, general manager of Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Toyota. "We are excited to be a part of this year's tournament and wish all the players luck!"

"We are grateful for the company's contribution and its long-standing commitment to TOC," said Ben Babauta, tournament director.

The 20th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 1 and 2. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include other brand new vehicles donated by Triple J Motors, Joeten Motors, and Club C. Pacifica Insurance and Club C are also sponsoring cash prizes as hole-in-one prizes, while Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is also offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize. Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prize for closest to pin competition with a 25-year-old bottle of Chivas Regal.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Hillary Agulto at 236-2571. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(TOC)***

PIC to host Saipan's 6th Annual Laser Tag Tournament

Laser guns will again blast its way on Saipan's southern tip when the Pacific Islands Club Saipan hosts the 6th Annual Laser Tag Tournament on Saturday at 5:45pm.

Registration begins at 5pm at PIC-Saipan's southern side where individuals can form a three-player team. The number of teams is limited only to 16.

Two teams will each face-off in an elimination style battle on the Laser Tag Park. Each player will be given a certain number of ammunition and lives during each match.

A time limit of three to five minutes is given every match, which will begin with pool play and then finish off in double elimination battles.

The entry fee is $10 per person. All participants must wear running shoes.

Tournament entry forms and Laser Tag Park Rules can be found at the PIC Information Desk or at the SEA Office from 9am to 6pm. Payments should be turned into the PIC Information Desk from 9am to 6pm.

Pacific Islands Club-Saipan, IT&E, and Pacific Trading Co., including Miller Lite, Gatorade, and Pepsi, are on board as tournament sponsors.

For more information, call Keoni Ichihara at PIC at 237-5174 or email keoni.ichihara@picsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Fundraising triathlon, bike races on Sunday

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Islander Rent-A-Car Road To Ironman Triathlon and Bike Race will take place on Sunday, July 19, at Pau Pau Beach Park.

The race is a fundraising event for Erico Castro, who will be competing with Peter Presley in this year's Cobra Ironman 70.3 in Cebu City, Philippines.

The race is divided into triathlon, and mountain and road bike categories. Registration, which has a $10 fee for individual and $20 for team, starts at 5:15am while triathlon starts at 6am and the bike is at 6:30am.

Triathlon will have men's, women's, and relay team divisions where participants will have a 1-kilometer swim around Pau Pau, a 20K bike ride from the parking lot where they will head to Saipan Ice before turning toward Banzai Cliff and back to Pau Pau. The 5K run is from Pau Pau and turn around at FEBC.

The MTB category in the bike race will have beginners and non-beginners in the men's and women's divisions. under-30, 31-45, and over-46 are the age groups.

The MTB route for beginners starts at Pau Pau where they will head to Bird Island, Sta. Clause, Cowtown, and back. Non-beginners will go to million gallon tank, turn left to Matansa Dr., proceed to Kamikaze Trail, turn right to Bird Island toward Autobahn, Sta. Clause, Cowtown, proceed to Banzai Cliff and back.

The road bike for beginners will be from Pau Pau, Bird Island, Grotto, Banzai Cliff, and back, while for non-beginners it will be Pau Pau toward Saipan ice, and the four corners minus the radar route.

Medals will be awarded to the Top 3 overall and Top 3 age group finishers for each category. Prizes, from various sponsors, will also be won.

For more information, call Ricky Castro at 483-2270.

Manfred, Clark say MLB nearing new domestic violence policy

CINCINNATI (AP)—Major League Baseball and the players' association say they are nearing agreement on a new domestic violence policy.

The sides have been talking since last year, following a series of high-profile domestic violence cases involving NFL players.

Baseball's collective bargaining agreement includes a voluntary treatment program for certain alcohol-related and off-field violent conduct. It also allows the commissioner or a team to impose discipline, but doesn't say of what sort, if a player is charged with a crime "involving the use of physical force or violence, including but not limited to, sexual assault, domestic violence, resisting arrest, battery, and assault."

Speaking to the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Tuesday, baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said "I am certain that we will have one that we will announce shortly."

Union head Tony Clark said work still needs to be done to complete an agreement.

"We are closer than we have ever been to getting something in place that makes sense," he said. "I couldn't tell you tomorrow or the day after. I can simply tell you that we're close."

DOLPHINS

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ern island neighbors.

The Tataga was winless in the tournament where they gave up an average of 101 points a game, while only scoring 36 per outing. Palau and the Dolphins also reached the century mark against them.

Holden Barcinas led five other Guam players that scored in double digits with 22, while Mark Temerowski added 18 points, Tony Hsieh and Shane Terlaje tallied 12 each. Gabriel Simon and DeAndre Cruz scattered 11 and 10 markers, respectively.

J.P. Cruz and Joseph Kisa had a field goal each for the Tataga, while Elijah Quiroz had a split from the free throw line.

In the second game, the Dolphins used a second-quarter breakaway in cruising past the Alu'u.

The Dolphins led 17-12 after the first 10 minutes of play, but poured on the points in the second period to put the game out of reach. They continued their offensive onslaught until the final buzzer.

Christian Arceo and Curtis Dancoe finished 1-2 in scoring for the Dolphins with 19 and 16 points each, while Emmanuel Cobacha and Aaron Ogumoro combined for 28 markers. Jun Alipio and Jude Tengco chipped in 10 each.

Rikko Lizama paced the Alu'u's losing cause with 17, while Evan Miller contributed 15 markers.

First Game

Guam 117 – Barcinas 22, Temerowski 18, Hsieh 12, Terlaje 12, Simon 11, Cruz 10, Calvo 8, Min 8, Rosas 8, Grape 4, San Luis 4.

Marianas Tataga 5 – Cruz 2, Kisa 2, Quiroz 1.

Scoring by quarters: 26-2, 55-4, 85-5, 117-5.

Second Game

Marianas Dolphins 101 – Arceo 19, Dancoe 16, Cobacha 14, Ogumoro 14, Alipio 10, Tengco 10, Factor 7, Mamaril 4, Dela Cruz 3, Mendoza 2, Quiroz 2.

Marianas Alu'u 60 – Lizama 17, Miller 15, Norita 7, Islam 6, Itaas 6, Pangelinan 4, Favor 3, Apasan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-12, 45-21, 74-44, 101-60.

BEO

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Only the Top 8 advances to the finals where the host nation swept the podium with Nelson Stone winning the gold in 47.56 seconds while Theo Pinian (48.08) and Kaminiel Matlann (48.43) settling for the silver and bronze, respectively.

Ngirchongor also ran in the 400m hurdles last Wednesday where he finished fourth in his heat with a time of 1:06.15. Only the Top 8 qualified to the finals.

Ngirchongor is best remembered for his record-breaking feat in last year's Micro Games when he shattered the decade-old 400m run record of 53 seconds of CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Tony Ichiou when he clocked 52.80 seconds.

In beach volleyball, the Andrew Johnson and Clay McCullough-Stearns finished with a 1-4 record in Pool A.

The CNMI sand spikers opened with a 21-10, 21-8 loss to the hosts but bounced back with a 21-14, 23-21 win over Tuvalu on Monday. They dropped a heartbreaking 21-15, 16-21, 9-15 defeat at the hands of Vanuatu last Tuesday.

They closed out their campaign with consecutive defeats against Tonga, 11-21, 12-21, and defending champion Fiji, 14-21, 14-21, on Wednesday.

Results of the other events were not yet available at press time due to the slow Internet connection as repairs of IT&E's submerged fiber optic cables have yet to start.

YOUNG

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us gel. At first we didn't know much about each other but the Hong Kong trip made us closer," added 19-year-old Geraldine Castillo, who became a member of the CNMI national women's team in 2012.

Fifteen-year-old Renita Fleming said that they were expecting to play defense against the three teams but it was a different story come game time, thanks to Chelsea Hong Kong coach Leslie Santos' military-like three-week training.

"We had ball possession most of the time and we became more confident when we got our first win. Coach Leslie's training helped our offense since the past year we focused more on defense but now we learned on how to attack more," said Fleming.

"The experience we gained in that three weeks boosted our confidence and helped us learn to trust each other inside the pitch," added Lyka Sally, another one of the team's 14-year-old starters.

Ito said that they plan to keep the core of the team intact in time for more off-island tournaments including another East Asian Football Federation event later this year.

"We're hoping to keep the team intact for year-round training. Chemistry and individual skills could help us win more games," added Ito.

Tan Siu Lin Badminton and Football Clinic

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in the over-11 age group in badminton do some warm-up exercises before the start of the clinic.

JON PEREZ
Participants in the badminton clinic perform some running drills to improve their footwork.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Under-15 participants were taught some conditioning exercises.

JON PEREZ
Kids in the under-10 age group in badminton do some stretching.

JON PEREZ
Badminton coach Andreau Galvez, center, shows Abigail Robles how to serve.

JON PEREZ
Barbara Peteru tries to dribble the ball past a set of cones.

JON PEREZ
Taka Borja, left, and Khotaro Goto do some dribbling exercises.

Football coach Hojin Woo, center, demonstrates how to properly handle the ball. JON PEREZ

Participants in the football clinic gather around to listen to coach Hojin Woo's instructions. JON PEREZ

Some of the students in the football clinic take a break. JON PEREZ

Houston, Bryant among franchised players to sign big deals

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Sports

Emotional Caitlyn Jenner accepts Ashe Courage Award at ESPYs

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Dolphins, Guam in lopsided wins

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Marianas Dolphins and Guam completed lopsided wins over their respective foes in the final day of round-robin play in the 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Dolphins routed the Marianas Alu'u, 101-60, to finish with a 3-1 record. while Guam completed a four-game sweep to finish on top following a merciless 117-5 massacre of Marianas Tataga.

Guam will face the No. 4 Alu'u in the first semifinals match at 4pm today, while the Dolphins take on Palau (2-2) in the other Final Four encounter. The winners advance to the championship game on Saturday while the losers clash in the consolation match.

Guam's win could be the most lopsided to be recorded in an amateur basketball tournament in the region. It also showed the huge disparity of Guam's grassroots development over its north-

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JON PEREZ
The Marianas Dolphins' Emmanuel Cobacha, left, attacks the defense of Evan Miller of the Marianas Alu'u in their game in the 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Beo qualifies in 200m semis

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Beo Ngirchongor advanced to the semifinals of the men's 200-meter run after the qualifying heats in the athletics event of the XV Pacific Games at the Sir John Guise Sports Complex last Wednesday in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Ngirchongor ran in the second heat and submitted a time of 24.29 seconds to finish third and 11th overall. Only the Top 16 runners advance to the semis where the Top 8 moves on to the finals.

Orrin Pharmin, the other CNMI bet, was 21st overall and fourth in Heat 1 with a time of 25.87 seconds.

Ngirchongor, who won the 400m hurdles and 400m run in last year's Micronesian Games in Pohnpeii, finished 15th out of 20 runners in the 400m run with a time of 54.57 seconds.

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Ngirchongor

Young NMI women's team surprises foes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A young CNMI Women's All-Star Team might have lost their last two games in last week's Luen Thai Cup in Hong Kong but their combined efforts made a lasting impression on their opponents.

The All-Stars finished with a 1-2 record dropping consecutive matches against South China Agricultural University Women's Football Club, 3-2, and the Singapore National Women's A Team, 2-0. Their lone win was over Chelsea FC Soccer School, 2-1.

"We were the youngest team in the tournament, we even had a 13-year-old. Our opponents were surprised how young we are and how we managed to play against them," said player/manager Angie Ito.

Singapore and South China University players are all college age but the CNMI All-Stars held their own against both teams.

Fourteen-year-old keepers Chevy Alipio and Karla Ballesteros limited Singapore and South China to a combined five goals and at the same time managed to score against both veteran squads.

"We're always been the underdogs. We were a little nervous since Singapore is known to be a good team like in the same level of Japan and we never saw them play," said 14-year-old Gwen Borja.

"The three weeks of training helped

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI women's football All-Star Team poses for a group photo before playing their first game against Chelsea FC Soccer School in last week's Luen Thai Cup in Hong Kong.